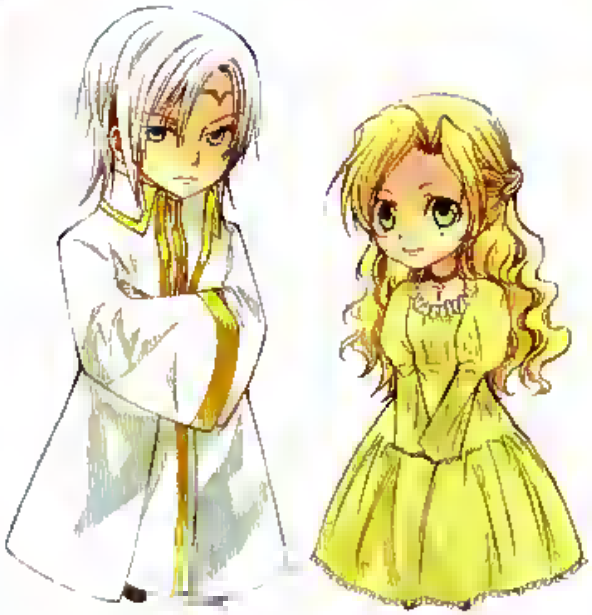

アダルシャンの花嫁
The Bride of Adarshan
2
原作 雨川 恵
漫画 風都ノリ
●キャラクター原案・桃季さえ

The bride of Adarshau



CONTENTS

Chapter 5 [Omen] 3

Chapter 6 [Alexid's Decision] 43

Chapter 7 [A Light of Hope in a Moonless Night] 75

Final Story [The Arriving Spring] 107

Short Story [A Small Wish] 157

Afterword 173

Chapter 5 [Omen]



I've lost it.

EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT I'D BEEN GRASPING IT TIGHTLY IN MY HAND...UNTIL JUST NOW...
THUD
grab


Where in the world, is what I'm looking for?
WHOOSH
clatter clatter





It's a strange thing.

On those nights when my 10-year-old wife Euti isn't beside me,

I have nightmares.






THE LEADER OF THIS COMMAND?
THIS IS A POSITION OF SOMEWHAT UNDESERVED HONOR.
...PLEASE BE SO GOOD AS TO RECONSIDER
AND YOUR REASON?
I KNOW IT BUT ...
Go to sleep.
...
Though I won't be able to sleep anyway ...


OUDRYL.
THE SUPERVISION OF ITS AUTHORITY,
IS SOMETHING I HAVE NO PLACE IN SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT.
THIS COMMAND IS THE CORNERSTONE OF FIVE OTHERS.
...THIS IS A BORING RESPONSE.


THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
SO NATURALLY EVERYONE THINKS HE WILL BE THE ONE TO TAKE OVER THE POSITION OF COMMANDER.
ELECT A NEW APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE,
AND OUR COMMAND WILL ABIDE BY YOUR DECISION.
OUDRYL IS PRESENTLY THE FIRST COMMANDING OFFICER.


Is this in regards to his lineage?
Please do not give me any favor more than this.
I am already receiving too much kind treatment from you
To have the position as a "first commanding officer is something that the previous commander would assess in terms of his ability and popularity?
Audryl came from a family of lower-class knights.
No, if you order it, then I will take this position.
I only stated my opinion because you asked me for it.
...
In other words, you don't wish to accept this position
Thank you for taking the trouble to visit you may leave


close


SIGH
slump


slide down


slump

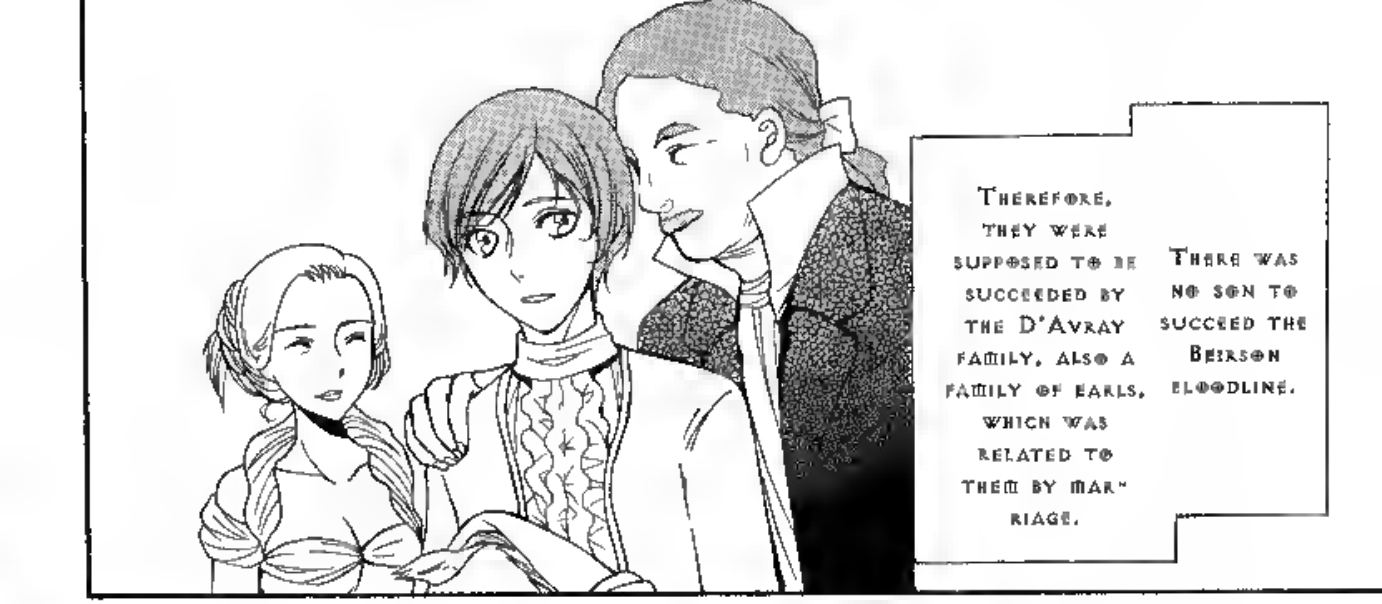

stands straight
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU SLACKING THERE FOR?
OW!
IT CAN STILL HURT?
IF YOU HAVE FREE TIME TO BE DISCUSSING TRIVIAL THINGS,
THEN HURRY UP AND GIVE THIS A LOOK OVER


I'M JUST SAYING THAT IF YOU'LL FEEL DOWN AFTER-WARDS, YOU SHOULDN'T ASK HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I DON'T THINK THAT, YOU IDIOT.
FLUD, YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GIVE ME ORDERS..
IT'S NOT TRIVIAL.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO HEAR THAT GUY OUT.
THAT EARLIER CONVERSA-TION WAS UNPREC-EDENTED.
I KNOW THAT.


YOU MEAN ALL THE BAD CRITICISM YOU'VE BEEN GETTING?
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO JUST ORDER HIM OUT ALREADY.
..I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM IT A LITTLE BIT...
I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THAT STUFF.
A LONG TIME AGO.
IT ALL STARTED ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO...


THIS ARMY PARTED WITH ITS COMMANDER, SAMAEL, WHO SEEMED TO HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
TWO MONTHS AGO,
IT WAS A MYSTERIOUS SUICIDE OF SOMEONE WHO HELD MANY TITLES OF MERITORIOUS WAR SERVICE.
IN THE END, THE TRUTH IS STILL GEN" ERALLY NOT KNOWN.
THAT SAMAEL DIED COVERING UP FOR ME, HIS FAVORITE PUPIL, WHO HAD OPPOSED AND SCHEMED AGAINST THE KING'S THRONE.
SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE ...
...WELL, IT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD DO SOON.
FOR THE TIME BEING, I WILL PUT IT ON HOLD
THAT'S WHY I NOMINATED GUDRYL, WHO IS CAPABLE OF GRASPING THE ARMY, AND ALSO CAPABLE OF CALM JUDGMENT. BUT...
NOW HIS SOL" DIERS ARE UNDER MY AUTHOR" ITY. AND THEY ARE UNSET" TLED.


THE SITUATION LOOKS LIKE IT'LL GET BUSY AGAIN ... IN THE SOUTH.
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT BEFORE SPRING BEGINS.
THE SOUTH... IS IT GLAREN?
IT'S COMPLICATED DUE TO BLAUKRENT'S INTERFERENCE.
THE REGION OF GLAREN IN THE KINGDOM OF ADARSHAN'S SOUTHERN DOMINIONS...
IS BLAUKRENT DISPUTING GLAREN'S TERRITORIAL POSSESSIONS?
IT ALL BEGAN LAST YEAR. FOR GENERATIONS, THE GLAREN PROVINCE HAD COME TO BE PROTECTED BY BEIRSON, A FAMILY OF EARLS...
BUT THAT FAMILY CAME TO AN END WITHOUT LEAVING ANY SUCCESSOR BEHIND.


Therefore, they were supposed to be succeeded by the D'Avray family, also a family of earls, which was related to them by marriage.
There was no son to succeed the Beirson bloodline.


claimed that he was now a close blood relation of the Beirson earl, and began to request the right of inheritance to his lands.
However, a noble of a neighboring country, Blaukrent, who took a niece of the deceased Beirson earl as a wife,


After that came many other problems, and though balance had eventually been achieved...
had captured Blaukrent's border regions, and founded the kingdom of Adarshan.
Nearly one hundred years ago, the ancestors of Adarshan's people—
IT'S BEEN A FEW DECADES SINCE THEN, AND THEY'RE CONFRONTING US AGAIN.


For Adarshan, we cannot allow another country to intervene with our country's land.
ADARSHAN
KINGDOM'S CAPITAL ISHTANA
But they were originally Blaukrent's lands.
BETARA PLAINS
CASTORIA
THE WAY TO ↓ BLAUKRENT


A HARSH WINTER WITH SNOW AND ICE ISN'T SUITABLE FOR WAR.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY SHOULD AVOID POINTLESS DANGER.
Well.
EVEN SO, THERE WON'T BE AN IMMEDIATE OUT-BREAK OF WAR, THANKS TO THE SEASON.
HIS MAJESTY YUUZE RICKS, SHOULD HAVE ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT,
YES. MY HALF BROTHER,
OH! YUUZEL,
YOU'VE BEEN AWAKE?

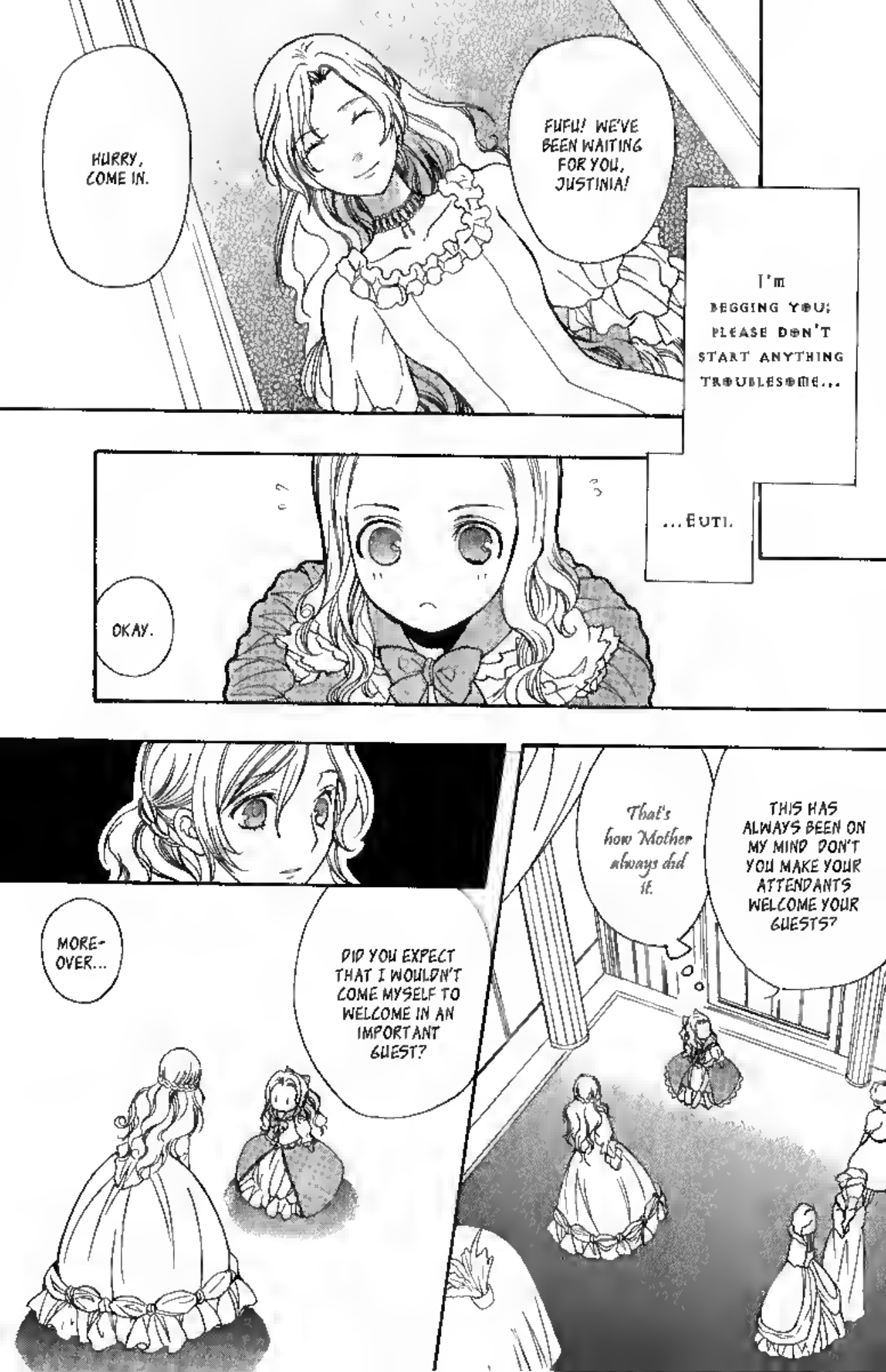

...
PLEASE LIE DOWN A BIT MORE...
YOU'RE LOOKING A LITTLE PALE.
I know your work is very important, but still!
He's cute when he's spacing out.
...IT'S TOMORROW
I CAN'T POSSIBLY REST.
CRUSH
EH? YUUZEL?

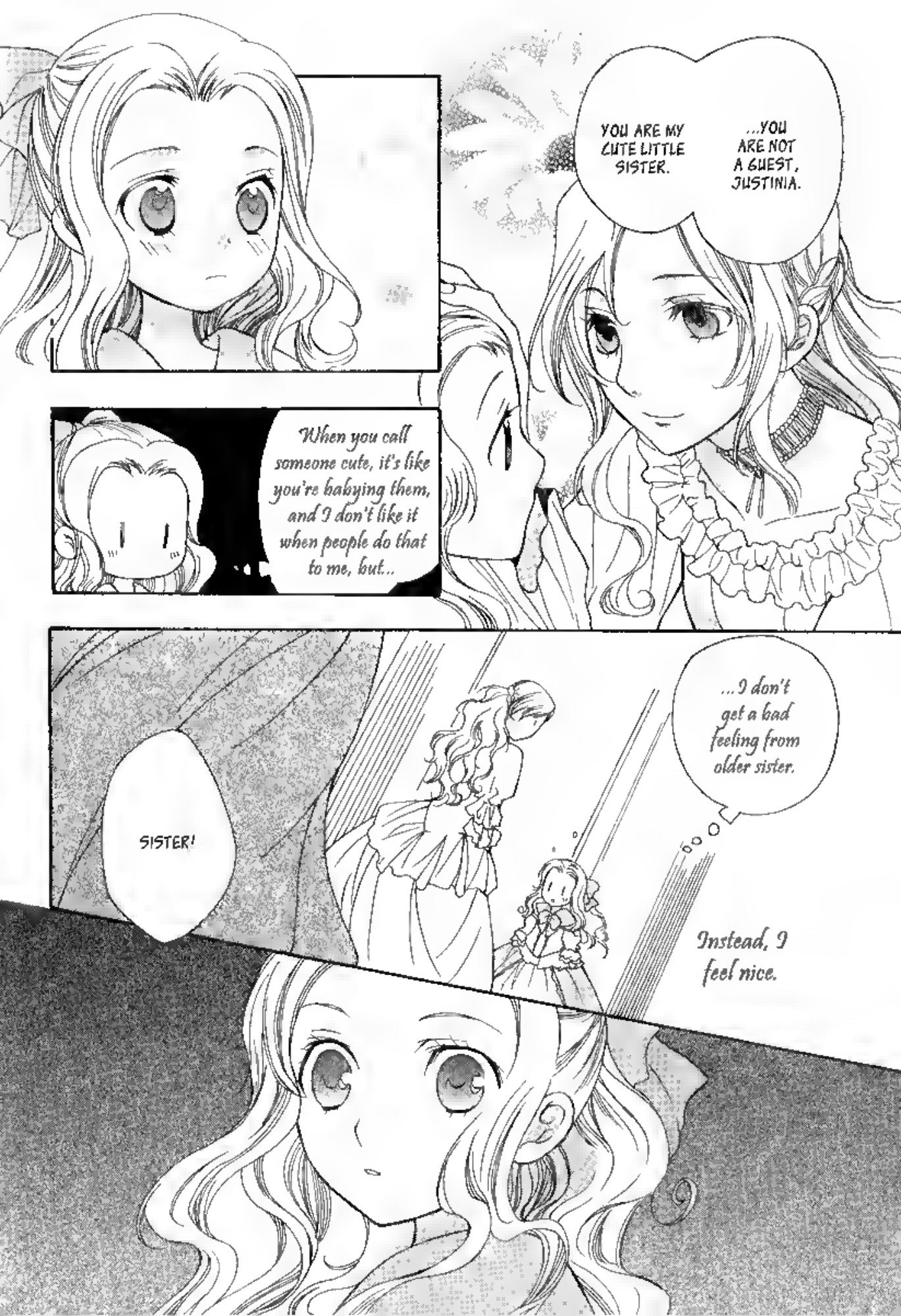

SEEMS LIKE SPRING WILL COME EARLY THIS YEAR
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY TAKE AN AGGRESSIVE POSITION AND BEGIN TO STIR UP TROUBLE.
AND THAT PERSON ALSO SEEMS TO BE TAKING MANY DIFFERENT MEASURES IN ANTICIPATION OF SOMETHING.
SPRING... WHEN THE SNOW MELTS OUT OF THE WAY, WAR WILL BEGIN.
Our conflicts with the eastern country of Castoria—
Were reconciled with my marriage to the imperial princess.
IN ORDER TO SILENCE CASTORIA DURING THE WINTER.
But now that I think about it, that is also one of my Brother's plans...
assuming that we might wage war with Blaukrent.

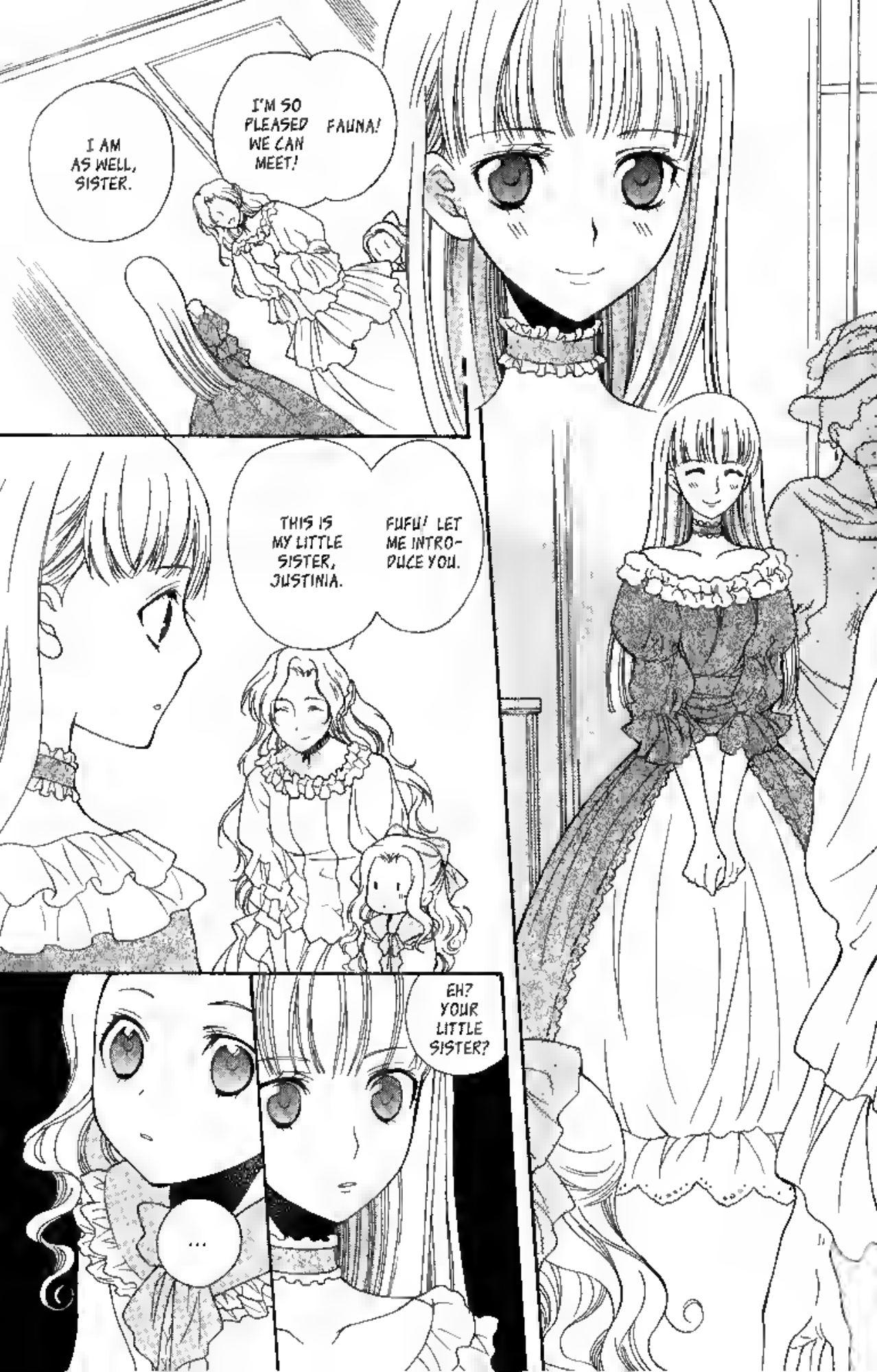

IT WASN'T LIKE THE IDEA JUST HIT HIM. HE HAD INTENDED TO DO IT FROM THE VERY START.
...HOW DID MY BROTHER THINK OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
CLATTER
Somehow, it seems that my brother's ability to think is con- structed dif- ferently from mine.
DON'T MAKE THAT FACE! IT'S WAKING YOU UP, ISN'T IT?
You've been out of it since this morning.
IT'S PRETTY GOOD, HUH? ISN'T ITS FLAVOR EXQUISITE?
What is this?!
It's too rich!
I'M SUCH A WON- DERFUL SERVANT!

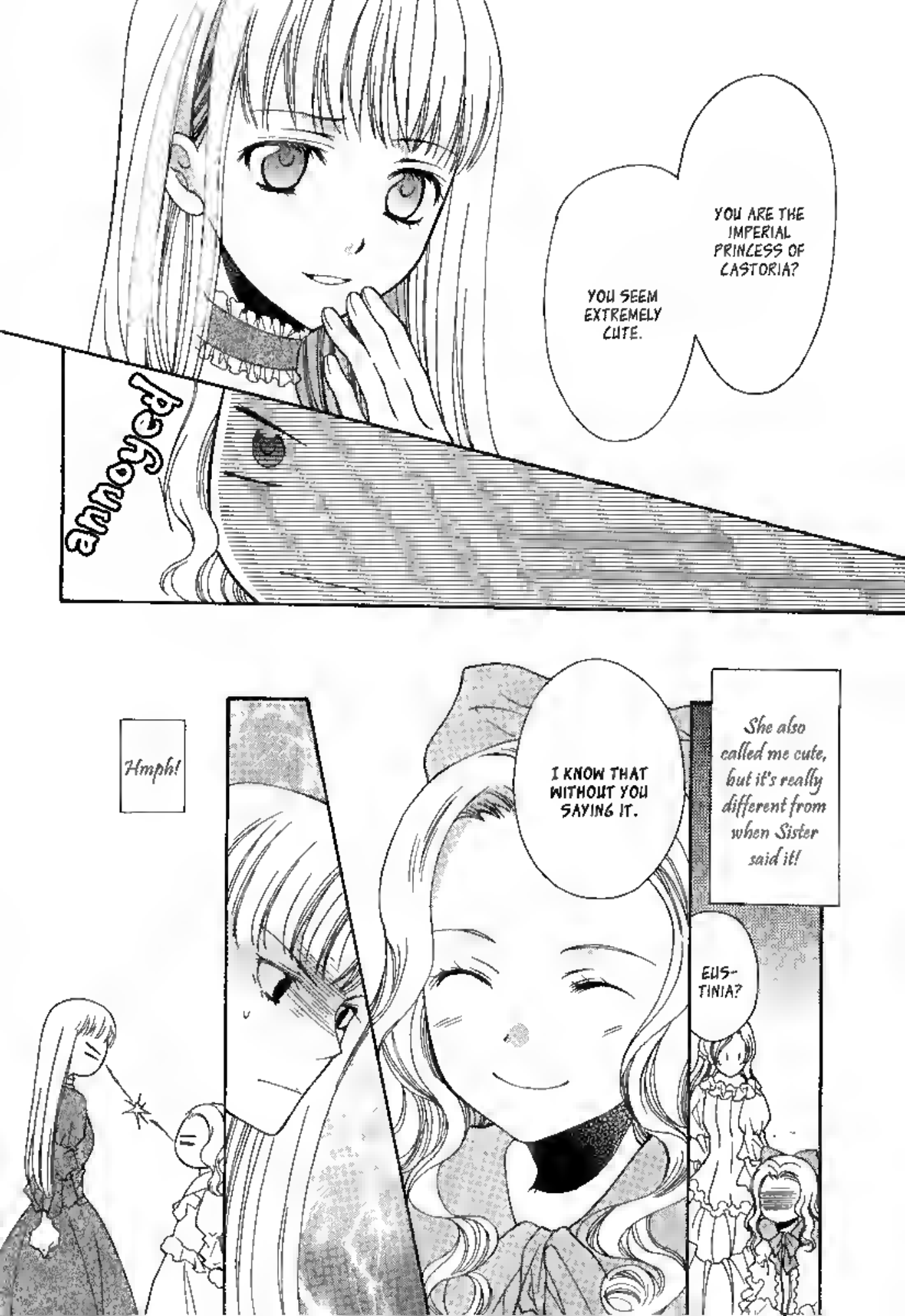

REALLY NOW, IS THAT SO? IT'S TOUGH TO BE A NEWLYWED, HUH?
!
. IT'S BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING SLEEP AT NIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS TO THE POINT YOU COULDN'T SLEEP!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN BUSY EVER SINCE YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR CUTE WIFE..
WHAT ...?!
EH, WHAT? SHE'S BORED WITH YOU ALREADY?
Isn't that too soon?
I DON'T REALLY CARE WHETHER SHE COMES OR NOT.
Hmm?
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE PRINCESS HASN'T BEEN COMING HERE RECENTLY, HUH?
Is it worth rusting Halcifon with this guy's blood?


THE QUEEN?
SHE PROBABLY WENT OFF TO BOTHER MY OLDER SISTER.
...WHAT DID THE PRINCESS SAY?
HOWEVER, THE QUEEN'S TEA PARTIES ARE ATTENDED ALTERNATIVELY BY HIGH-CLASS WOMEN AND CELEBRITIES.
MY OLDER SISTER, QUEEN AZERIA, HAS BEEN MEDDLING AROUND WITH HER NEW YOUNGER SISTER...
AND SO SHE'S BEEN INVITING EUTI TO HER TEA PARTIES.
THE QUEEN'S TEA PARTY ROOM IS VERY SPECIAL.
SHE DOESN'T GET IT AT ALL.
SHE SAID THE TEA CAKES ARE DELICIOUS, SO SHE WANTS TO GO AGAIN.


HURRY, COME IN.
FUFU! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, JUSTINIA!
I'm BEGGING YOU; PLEASE DON'T START ANYTHING TROUBLESOME...
...EUTI.
OKAY.
MORE-OVER...
DID YOU EXPECT THAT I WOULDN'T COME MYSELF TO WELCOME IN AN IMPORTANT GUEST?
That's how Mother always did it.
THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON MY MIND DON'T YOU MAKE YOUR ATTENDANTS WELCOME YOUR GUESTS?


YOU ARE MY CUTE LITTLE SISTER.
...YOU ARE NOT A GUEST, JUSTINIA.
When you call someone cute, it's like you're babying them, and I don't like it when people do that to me, but...
SISTER!
...I don't get a bad feeling from older sister.
Instead, I feel nice.

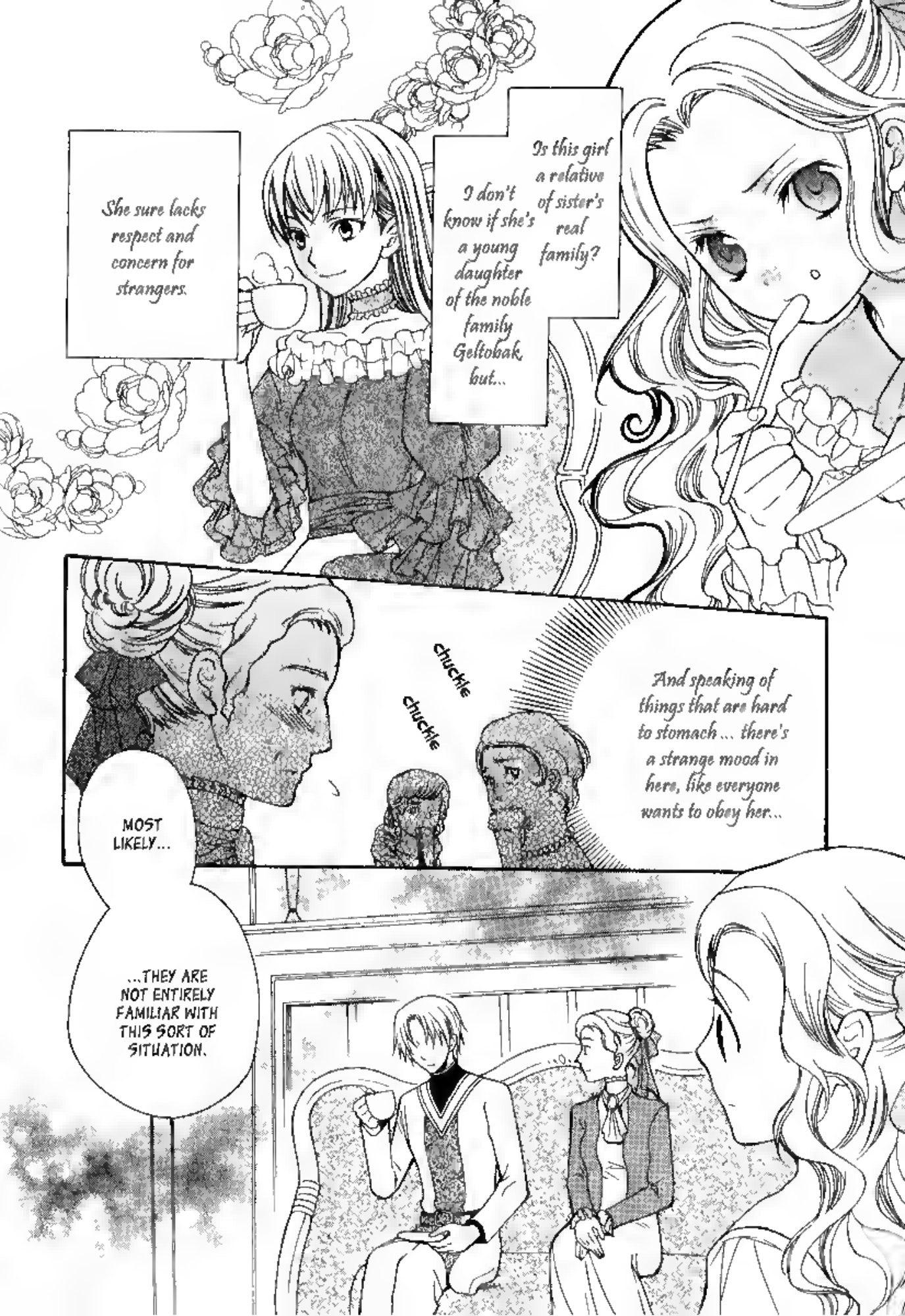

I AM AS WELL, SISTER.
I'M SO PLEASED WE CAN MEET!
FAUNA!
THIS IS MY LITTLE SISTER, JUSTINIA.
FUFU! LET ME INTRO-DUCE YOU.
EH? YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
...


annoyed!
YOU ARE THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF CASTORIA?
YOU SEEM EXTREMELY CUTE.
Hmph!
I KNOW THAT WITHOUT YOU SAYING IT.
She also called me cute, but it's really different from when Sister said it!
EUS-TINIA?


IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE SAFE WHILE TRAVELING
IN THIS SNOW,
clink

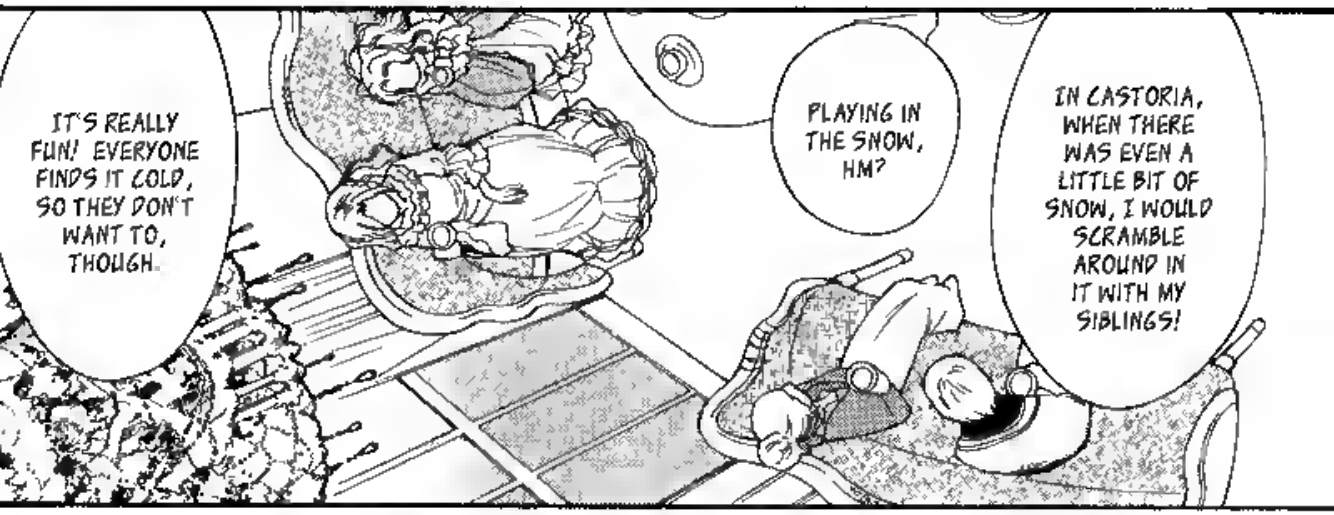

IN THE SNOW, YOUR COACHMEN WERE AT THEIR WITS' END, STRUGGLING TO GET THROUGH THE ROADS.
AH! BUT I'VE HEARD THAT...
YES, INDEED.
YES, A LITTLE.
WELL! I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM. WERE THEY HARMED?
YES, YES! YOUR HORSES WERE STUCK IN THE SNOW AND SUCH, WEREN'T THEY?
actually, I'm very sympathetic...
CLAREN'S HORSES ARE QUITE WEAK.
or do these ladies' anxious voices...
Is it just my imagination,
?


I CANNOT POSSIBLY THINK THAT MERE SNOW CAN STOP THE HORSES.
IF IT WERE ADARSHINA—
FAUNA!
OR IS IT THE COACHMEN WHO LACK SKILLS?
PLEASE STOP SAYING DISCOURTEOUS THINGS TO OUR GUESTS.
BUT, SISTER—
AH, I HAD NO INTENTION OF BEING IMPOLITE.
I MERELY THOUGHT WE COULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EMPLOY NEW COACHMEN.
Sure you thought that!


She sure lacks respect and concern for strangers.
I don't know if she's a young daughter of the noble family Geltobak, but...
Is this girl a relative of sister's real family?
chuckle
chuckle
And speaking of things that are hard to stomach ... there's a strange mood in here, like everyone wants to obey her...
MOST LIKELY...
...THEY ARE NOT ENTIRELY FAMILIAR WITH THIS SORT OF SITUATION.


THE SNOW ISN'T AS THICK IN GLAREN.
IMPERIAL PRINCESS, WERE YOU NOT ALSO SURPRISED BY THE SNOW?
IN THIS WAY, MANY TRAVELERS ARE SURPRISED WHEN THEY ATTEMPT TO APPROACH THE CAPITAL.
EVEN IF THEY SAY DIFFERENTLY IN THE BORDER COUNTRIES.
AT THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL, IT'S RARE THAT THINGS LIKE SNOW PILE UP!
OF COURSE!


BUT THEN, IT'S GOOD IF THE SNOW PILES UP!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY IN IT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
IT'S WEIRDER TO THINK OF MYSELF AS DIFFERENT.
TO ME, THE COUNTRY OF ADARSHAN ITSELF IS A BORDER COUNTRY.


IT'S REALLY FUN! EVERYONE FINDS IT COLD, SO THEY DON'T WANT TO, THOUGH.
PLAYING IN THE SNOW, HM?
IN CASTORIA, WHEN THERE WAS EVEN A LITTLE BIT OF SNOW, I WOULD SCRAMBLE AROUND IN IT WITH MY SIBLINGS!


SNOW BALL FIGHTS?


WHEN I WAS SMALL, I OFTEN HAD SNOWBALL FIGHTS.
I LIKE PLAYING IN THE SNOW AS WELL.


This sounds like a really interesting game!
SHIVER
.. YOU SAID THAT YOU REALLY LIKE PLAYING IN THE SNOW?
HAVE YOU NEVER TRIED IT BEFORE?
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY. WE WOULD JUST HIT PEOPLE WITH SNOW-BALLS.
clink
REALLY? WHEN?
YES. IF YOU LIKE, SHALL WE PLAY TO-GETHER?
WON'T IT BE TROUBLE-SOME FOR LORD ELIAS AS WELL?
YOU WANT TO GO NOW? IT'S COLD OUTSIDE.
EVEN RIGHT NOW, IF YOU'D LIKE.
WHENEVER YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHNESS WISHES.
SISTER!


FOR ME, NOT AT ALL.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY NEPHEW, IMPERIAL PRINCESS
smile
PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDENESS!
Even though taking out a guest is essentially considered impolite...
DON'T BOTHER HIM TOO MUCH, AND PLEASE WEAR A COAT!
Ah...


It's nice to be a child-
OH.
BECAUSE I WASN'T REALLY ABLE TO GREET YOU.
YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON ME,
There were so many people that I can't remember...
mold
mold
THE TRUTH IS IF YOU SPRINKLE WATER ON THEM AFTERWARD, THEY BECOME MUCH HARDER
...YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS, HUH?
BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS TO THROW THESE AT PEOPLE.
BUT THAT'S A SECRET.
MY NAME IS ELIAS. I WAS ALSO PRESENT AT YOUR HIGHNESS'S WEDDING CEREMONY.

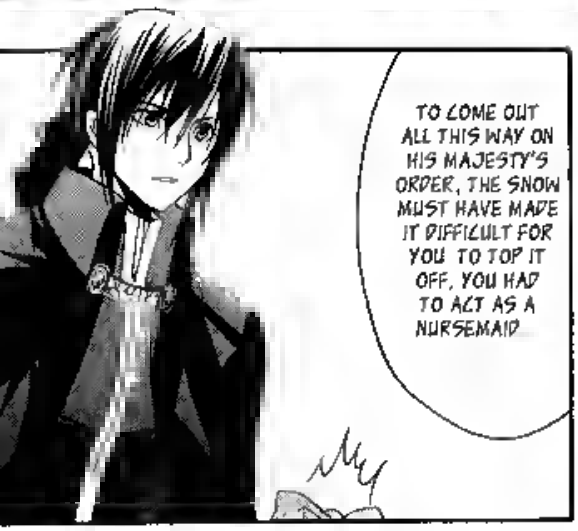

AND HE STOOD IT UP AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ROYAL PALACE.
ALEC IS ALSO REALLY GOOD AT THIS, BUT HE NEVER KEEPS ME COMPANY
AHH.
Now that she mentions it...
THE OTHER DAY, HE MADE A SNOW DOLL,
..YOU MEAN THE CROWN PRINCE'S YOUNGER BROTHER?
IT MAY SEEM LIKE THAT NOW, BUT WE DIDN'T GET ALONG FOR A MUCH LONGER TIME.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE "BLACK DEMON" ALEC USED TO BE MY ...TER ENEMY.
BUT I ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO EMBRACE MY HATRED ANYMORE...
YOU TWO GET ALONG VERY WELL, DON'T YOU?


I DON'T KNOW HIM PERSONALLY.
BUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THE CROWN PRINCE'S YOUNGER BROTHER?
THE PEOPLE I HAVE LOST WILL NEVER RETURN AGAIN.
I DON'T THINK THAT MY HATRED WILL BECOME SOMETHING LIKE A SUBSTITUTE FOR KINDNESS AND WARM AFFECTION.
BUT...
YOU MEAN ALEC?
I WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE TO ASK HIM TO PLAY WITH ME, BUT ALL HE SAYS IS, "LATER, LATER!"
Even though just recently, I said that I want another snow doll!
PEOPLE'S RUMORS ARE DIVIDED EVENLY INTO THOSE THAT SAY HE'S A KIND AND RESOLUTE YOUNG MAN AND THOSE THAT SAY HE'S A CRUEL AND BRUTAL DEMON. HOWEVER...
clench
THAT GUY NEVER FEELS LIKE DOING ANYTHING!
THAT'S WHY IT'S AWFUL


PEOPLE ONLY JUDGE HIM FOR HIS ACTIONS.
AND IF HE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING, THEN PEOPLE JUST DREAM UP AND SEE WHATEVER THEY WANT TO.
IF HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN HIS WORK, HE SHOULD JUST MAKE SNOW DOLLS.
HE ACTUALLY FINDS IT FUN.
GIVE ME ONE!
THROW


CATCH
OH, IT'S YOU, EUTI?
YOU AREN'T OFF BOTHERING MY SISTER?
GIVE IT BACK! I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HIT YOU!
WHO WOULD GIVE THIS BACK TO YOU, KNOWING THAT YOU'RE JUST GOING TO THROW IT BACK?
Quarrel
Quarrel
IF YOU DON'T GIVE IT BACK, I'LL HIT YOU WITH A REALLY HARD ONE!
IF YOU SPRINKLE WATER ON THEM, THEY BECOME REALLY HARD!
...REALLY, WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT?
You'll fall into the pond again.
I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE.
THE ONE WHO TAUGHT THAT TO THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS WAS ME.
IT SEEMS THAT IT'S VERY RARE FOR HER TO PLAY IN THE SNOW.
SMILE


IT MUST HAVE BEEN A LONG JOURNEY FOR YOU.
That's a city in Glaren.
Falnas...


TO COME OUT ALL THIS WAY ON HIS MAJESTY'S ORDER, THE SNOW MUST HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO TOP IT OFF, YOU HAD TO ACT AS A NURSEMAID


I DIDN'T FORCE HIM TO!
DON'T FORCE HIM TO ACCOMPANY YOU, EUTI.


ELIAS RADEON, SENT BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING I AM RANKED A VISCOUNT OF THE FALNAS ESTATE


OF COURSE! HOW CAN I BE MAKING SNOW DOLLS ALL THE TIME?!
EVEN THOUGH I SAID I WANTED ANOTHER SNOW DOLL, YOU DIDN'T MAKE ONE FOR ME!
DIDN'T I ALREADY ACCOMPANY YOU THREE DAYS AGO?
ELIAS WAS NICE TO ME AND HE SAID THAT IT WAS OKAY! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT SAYS IT'S BAD TO COME WITH ME AND PLAY!
tap tap tap
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE AN ELOPEMENT!
!
I'M NOT GOING TO ASK YOU TO PLAY WITH ME ANYMORE!
LET'S GO, ELIAS!
TURN


EUTI, YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING WEIRD AGAIN.
↑ The guy who taught it to her
UM... IMPERIAL PRINCESS ...
I wonder what an elopement is anyway
GLUNK
THIS BODY IS...
HOW... COMPLETELY ANNOYING...
CHAPTER 5 END


Chapter 6
[Alexid's Decision]


I'M BACK, SISTER!
OH, YOU'RE COVERED IN SNOW!
COME OVER HERE QUICKLY!
IT WAS CHILLY AND IT FELT NICE!
BUT YOU'LL CATCH A COLD LIKE THAT.
AREN'T YOU CHEER-FUL!


SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LORD ELIAS?
HE ESCORTED ME HERE AND THEN HE WENT BACK.
HE KEPT ASKING ME TO SEND YOU HIS REGARDS.
OH, MY, HE SHOULD HAVE DROPPED BY HERE AGAIN.
..I THOUGHT SO, TOO, BUT ..
SLIDE
I CAN'T POSSIBLY SHOW UP BEFORE THE QUEEN, LOOKING LIKE THIS, SO ..
CHYA
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO AND PAY HIM A VISIT.

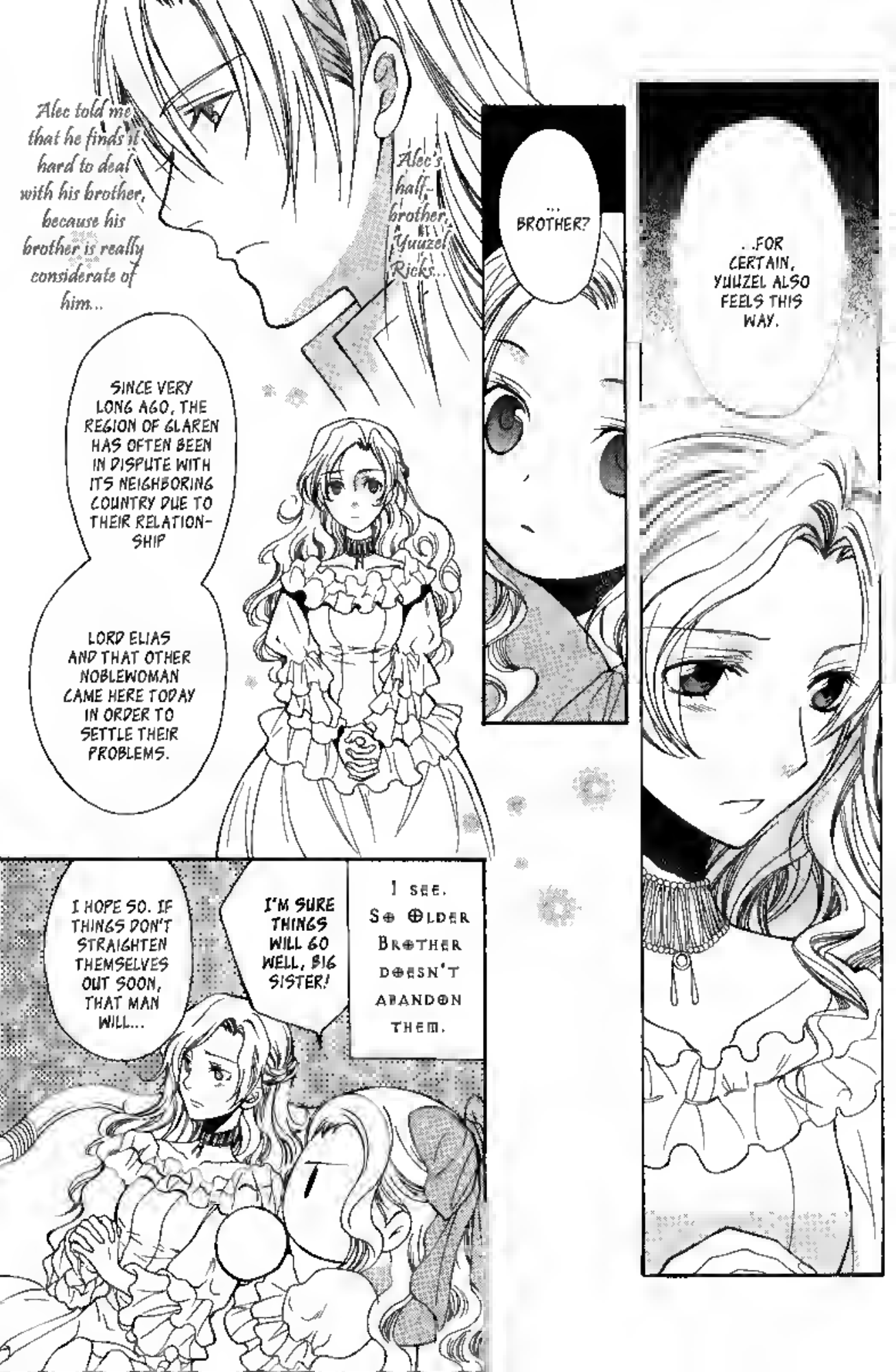

Is the tea party already over...?
Fufu... I saved some baked sweets just for you.
That's great! I was wondering what I would do if all the guests ate everything...
I'm glad that you're happy.
It didn't feel like everyone was enjoying tea today, because of Fawna's discourteousness to one of the noblewomen...
I don't want to see Sister's sad face.
It wasn't sister's fault!
It's all because of those people with nasty personalities!

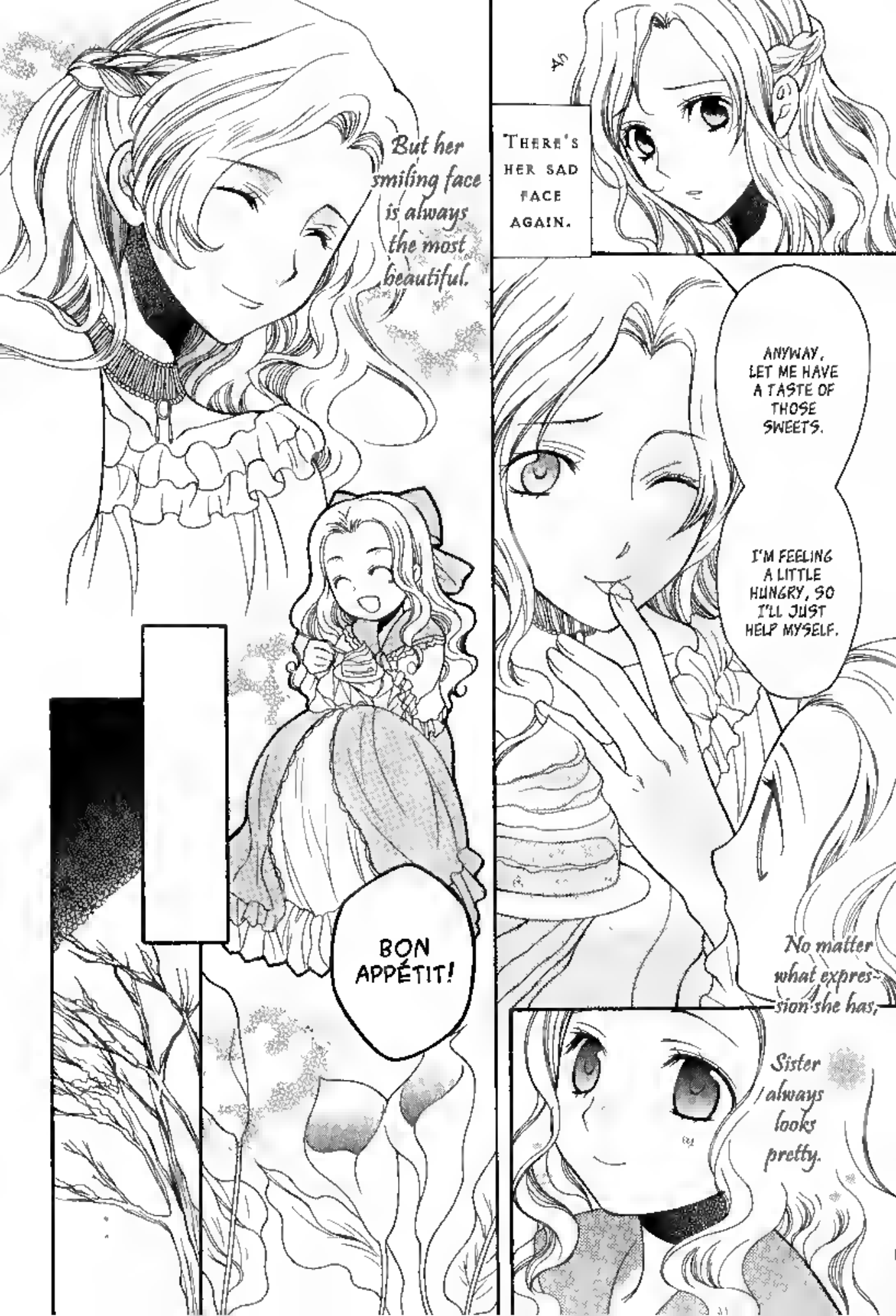

FAWNA WAS SO RUDE TO THAT COUNTESS.
I WONDER HOW LONG THIS SORT OF THING WILL CONTINUE . . .
"It's impossible for mere snow to stop the horses."
"If it were Adarshina-"
Having contempt for those who were born in the border countries is something that exists even in the empire of Castoria, but...
YOU KNOW, GLAREN IS A TERRITORY POSSESSED BY THIS COUNTRY
LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE FROM BORDER COUNTRIES IS ABSURD.
ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THIS COUNTRY WAS NEEDY AND WAS IN DISORDER
WHEN A HARSH WINTER CAME, MANY PEOPLE DIED.


THERE WERE CERTAINLY A LOT OF OTHER LORDS WHO WERE EVIL.
BUT YOU KNOW, I DON'T MEAN TO SAY THAT THE LORD WAS ESPECIALLY HORRIBLE.
HOWEVER, LORD EZEL'S NAME HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND WITH A BAD REPUTATION.
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO BECAME SICK FROM COLD OR STARVATION WAS ENDLESS.
LORD EZEL WOULD TAKE IT AWAY FROM EVERYONE. BECAUSE OF THAT,
THERE WAS VERY LITTLE FOOD, BUT WHEN THERE DID HAPPENED TO HAVE SOME FOOD,
SOMEHOW, SAVAGE TRIBES OFTEN APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AND STOLE HIS TERRITORIES...
HE DESTROYED EZEL AS PUNISHMENT FOR HIS MISDEEDS, FOUNDED ADARSHAN, AND THUS BECAME OUR ANCESTOR.
ONE OF THE TRIBESMEN, IVARAAD, WAS PRESENTED WITH THE TREASURED SWORD, THE HALCIFON, AS THE PROOF OF THE BLESSING OF AMA FESTA, THE GODDESS OF VOWS AND REVENGE.


WAS THE BEGINNING. THIS WAS HOW IVARAAD, THE FOUNDING KING, AND THIRTEEN OTHERS WHO PLEDGED LOYALTY TO HIM,
DEVELOPED THIS COUNTRY.
FAWNA'S CLAN, GERTBURKE, IS ONE OF THOSE THIRTEEN FAMILIES.
AND EVEN NOW, THE ONLY ONES WHOM THE KING HAS PRESENTED SEATS IN THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ARE THE THIRTEEN COUNT FAMILIES, WHO ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE THIRTEEN OTHERS, AS WELL AS THE TWO MARQUIS FAMILIES THAT BELONG TO THE TWO PRINCES OF THE IMPERIAL ROYAL FAMILY
EVEN NOW, THE FOUNDING KING AND THOSE THIRTEEN THAT HEADED THEIR OWN UNITS INTO BATTLE WITH HIM ARE HONORED.
Those are the people of Glaren...
IVARAAD WAS ABLE TO OVERTHROW EZEL BECAUSE HE JOINED HANDS WITH EZEL'S SUBORDINATES, WHO DESPISED HIS OPPRESSION AND TYRANNY.
SO, TAKING THOSE ACHIEVEMENTS INTO MIND, THE FOUNDING KING PRESENTED THEM WITH A NOBLE'S TITLE AS WELL AS THEIR OWN TERRITORIES.
SOME OF THEM ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THIS LAND.
HOWEVER, NOT ALL OF THEM ARE RETAINERS OF THE FOUNDING KING SINCE THE BEGINNING


BUT THEN SHOULDN'T THESE PEOPLE BE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, WHO CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE FOUNDING OF THE KINGDOM?
PERHAPS, BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO DON'T THINK THAT WAY
THE CORE OF THE MATTER LIES IN EZEL'S RETAINERS.
THEY MIGHT BETRAY THEIR MASTER TWICE.
BECAUSE GLAREN'S NOBLES ARE OUTSIDERS, AND THEY'RE NOT TRUSTED, EVERYONE REGARDS THEM AS REBELS AND LOOKS DOWN ON THEM.
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
CLATTER
AFTER ALL, A ROYAL FAMILY HAS TO RULE OVER A WHOLE COUNTRY. IT'S NOT GOOD TO LOOK DOWN ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT!
No matter how much loyalty one swears,
if it's just going to be doubted,
wouldn't it all be pointless?
OF COURSE.
THE ROYAL FAMILY IS NOT BETRAYING THEM
GLAREN IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, A ROYAL TERRITORY,
AND IT SHOULD RECEIVE PARTICULAR PROTECTION AND PATRONAGE FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY


Alec told me that he finds it hard to deal with his brother, because his brother is really considerate of him...
Alec's half-brother, Yuuzel Ricks...
...BROTHER?
...FOR CERTAIN, YUUZEL ALSO FEELS THIS WAY.
SINCE VERY LONG AGO, THE REGION OF GLAREN HAS OFTEN BEEN IN DISPUTE WITH ITS NEIGHBORING COUNTRY DUE TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP
LORD ELIAS AND THAT OTHER NOBLEWOMAN CAME HERE TODAY IN ORDER TO SETTLE THEIR PROBLEMS.
I SEE. SO OLDER BROTHER DOESN'T ABANDON THEM.
I'M SURE THINGS WILL GO WELL, BIG SISTER!
I HOPE SO. IF THINGS DON'T STRAIGHTEN THEMSELVES OUT SOON, THAT MAN WILL...


But her smiling face is always the most beautiful.
There's her sad face again.
Ah
Anyway, let me have a taste of those sweets.
I'm feeling a little hungry, so I'll just help myself.
No matter what expression she has,
Sister always looks pretty.
Bon appétit!


CRACKLE
I WAS PLANNING TO FINISH THIS WORK TONIGHT...
AGAIN?


Our fight with the eastern neighboring country of Castoria has been settled with the marriage of Alexid and the Imperial Princess,
for the time being.
But there's still no agreement concerning the succession of the Glaren region.
I planned to gather prominent lords from many regions and hold a conference tomorrow...
And yet...
TOMORROW ...
IT'S TOMORROW.
How annoying!
It may be the one that I was born with, but this fragile body is interfering with my dream...


KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
Who... is that?
Ah...
.....
You don't need to call out so many times with that voice like you're at your wit's end...
I can hear you clearly.
!!
YU...
YUUZEL?


Year 504 of the Empire, a winter of intense cold.
For a while, the royal castle of Adarshan
began to tremble with the news that the king was
due to an illness.
Just one time...
Call me with your usual voice...
Azelia...


I SAID, GET OUT OF THE WAY.
I RECEIVED ORDERS NOT TO ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE YOUR ROOM, PRINCE ALEXID.
I REVOKE YOUR ORDER. MOVE OUT OF THE WAY.
JERRICK! WHOSE ORDER IS THIS?
THEN PLEASE GIVE YOUR ORDER TO A SUPERIOR COMMAND-ING OFFICER.


clench
WHY DOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?
MY BROTHER IS SICK IN BED AND I WANT TO SEE HIM.
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, PLEASE ASK LATER.
SINCE THIS MORNING, I'VE BEEN LOCKED UP IN MY OWN ROOM.
NO ONE WILL EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU REMAINED HERE QUIETLY AND OBEDIENTLY.
YOU'RE GOOD AT THAT, AREN'T YOU?
SHOWING AN UNCARING FACE, JUST LIKE BACK THEN, WHEN THAT MAN WAS EXECUTED
JERRICK, YOU...!
WHEN THIS EXTREMELY VEXING DUTY IS OVER.


WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
-GLARE
ALRIGHT THAT'S ENOUGH
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY
TO INTERRUPT YOUR HEATED CONVERSATION. HOWEVER ...
HIS FACE DOESN'T LOOK TERRIBLY SORRY


WHICH MEANS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET HIM AWAY FROM HERE, HUH?
WH-... NO!
I'VE JUST GOT A MINOR BUSINESS REGARDING HIS HIGHNESS
WON'T YOU LET ME TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR A WHILE?
Uh-huh.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!
FRED!
IN ANY CASE, YOU'LL BE GETTING NOTIFICATION OF THE TERMINATION OF YOUR ORDERS SOON, I THINK.
Don't worry about it, he's fine!
HEY, DON'T BE SUCH A STICKLER. THIS IS JUST A FAVOR FROM ONE SUBORDINATE TO ANOTHER.
SLAM!
WHAT ARE YOU-?
WAIT-!


JERRICK SAID THAT HE WAS GIVEN AN ORDER FROM ABOVE.
. WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE ROYALS ARE ALREADY MOVING OVER TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.
IF IT WASN'T THAT, THEN HOW COULD THE ARMY BE DISPATCHED WHEN YOU'RE NOT THE ONE CONTROLLING THEM?
! THEY CAN'T BE!


That can't be.
My brother is in a situation where he can't help but relinquish his royal power?
Does that mean
Fred said that "the royals are already moving."
If he dies...
What should I do?
grip


RIGHT NOW...
YOU CANNOT LEAVE THIS PLACE YET
THEY WILL COME SOON TO GET YOU
COME TO GET ME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT I LEAVE THIS PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
click
click
STAY LOW IF YOU DON'T WANT TO RAISE ANY FALSE PRETEXT...
FALSE PRETEXT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO INHERIT THE THRONE.
TRY APPROACHING THE KING WHEN HE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
YOU'RE AN EASY PREY


WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?!
HE'S IN DANGER!
AS I THOUGHT ...
HM?
THUMP
THAT HE WAS IN SUCH BAD CONDI-TION...
ARGH, JEEZ...
YOU SHOULD BE COMMENTING ABOUT!
NO, THAT'S NOT THE PART
JUST CALM DOWN A LITTLE!
PAT


TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIS CONDITION.
IT SEEMS THAT THE DOCTOR FORBADE PEOPLE FROM GOING IN AND OUT OF HIS ROOM EARLIER.
THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN COME IN AND OUT ARE THE DOCTOR, THE QUEEN,
AND THAT ONE OTHER PERSON.
SO REALLY, EVEN IF YOU WENT, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO IN.
I finally understand what Fred wanted to tell me.
SO HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN MOTHER IS COMING AS WELL.
I, the illegitimate son of the previous king, had always been a detestable presence to my stepmother.


IT'S FINE, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT
My stepmother despised it greatly whenever I came close to her and Brother.
However, some ten years ago she had some disagreement with Brother, and moved to a villa in the west.
And then, Brother and I started to meet face to face.
Sister, my stepmother, and the doctor will all be there ...Even if I went to his side, I wouldn't be able to do anything.
. I GUESS SO.
But if news of Brother succumbing to illness reaches my stepmother's ears...
SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T WANT ME TO COME NEAR BROTHER I DON'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS WITH HIM.
THE PROBLEM LIES IN YOU.
WHACK
...ME?


A MESSENGER WILL ARRIVE SOON.
PROBABLY TO CALL THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ALL TOGETHER.
.. DID I DO ANYTHING THAT WILL WARRANT THEM TO CALL ME THERE?
?
YOU...! ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
Don't you get it?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO OBVIOUSLY MIGHT INHERIT THE KING'S THRONE, PRINCE ALEXID!
It's TRUE THAT BROTHER DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN, BUT...
THE THRONE IS FOR THE CROWN PRINCE TO SUCCEED. MOREOVER, I DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF POLITICAL ABILITY.
SO THE SUCCESSION DOESN'T CONCERN ME, DOES IT?
IT WOULD BE NICE IF IT WORKED OUT THAT WAY, BUT...
EH?
knock
knock


EXCUSE ME I BEAR A MESSAGE FOR THE ROYAL PRINCE.
PLEASE ACCOMPANY US.
THE KING'S ADVISORY COUNCIL WISHES YOUR HIGHNESS'S PRESENCE.
I WOULD LIKE AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.


ON BEHALF OF ALL THE ATTENDANTS GATHERED HERE, I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE
FOR CONFINING YOU IN YOUR ROOM FOR SO LONG.
So they won't reveal to me the answer to the really important question, huh?
Did they invite me here because they've elected who will succeed the throne?
As if I care about something like that.
I don't have anything to do with who becomes king after Brother.


There is no meaning for me if Brother isn't king.
They can do as they wish.
I don't have interest in either the throne or political power.
I won't devote myself to anyone but him.
The one person that I took up my sword for is Brother.
No matter who becomes the king"
However, we fear that government affairs require that the king will have
a representative
Prince Alexid, I'm sure that you are very worried about king's health.
We were hoping that you would take up that duty.


IS THIS THE ADVISORY COUNCIL'S IDEA?
...
A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE KING?
SOMETHING THAT IDIOTIC
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE TELLING ME TO BECOME THE SUCCESSOR OF THE THRONE?
grip
WHY ME?
ISN'T THERE A MORE PROMINENT, MORE APPROPRIATE PERSON FOR THIS JOB?
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
PLEASE LEAVE ALL THE MORE COMPLICATED TASKS TO US
WE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU.
...!


I HAVE NO SUPPORTERS OR POLITICAL POWER.
BUT I DO HAVE A POSITION WHOSE INFLUENCE CAN BE USED BY ANYONE.
I SEE. SO I'M TO BE A PUPPET.
THERE PROBABLY ISN'T A PERSON MORE APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NEEDS THAN ME
THE ONES THAT SEEM RELUCTANT ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT
ARE THE TWO MARQUISES OF THE IMPERIAL ROYAL FAMILY WHO ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO SUCCEED THE KING'S THRONE.
I SEE WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO DO.
NATURALLY, ANYONE ELSE IN THIS COUNCIL CAN BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION.


If someone other than me is nominated, then things would be easier.
I am unfit for this position, and if I compromised with them, wouldn't the council be in disorder?
But what should I do?
But what if I refuse?
We need someone to grasp the helm of this country.
Then I would be interfering with the interests of various noble families, and I might destroy the very pillar of the government.
What is the road that I should choose ...?
What is the right thing to do?
EXCUSE ME!
...I-


I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN MOTHER.
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN MOTHER ...?!
CHAPTER 6 END

The Bride of Adarshan

Chapter 6

A Joint project of Aerandria & Starry Heaven

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Chapter 7

[A LIGHT OF HOPE IN A MOONLESS NIGHT]




The queen mother Marielle.
My half-brother, the king's, biological mother, and my step-mother—
I caught wind of an absurd rumor
that said that the advisory council, who should have faithfully devoted themselves to the king's service, is planning a horrible scheme.


A HORRIBLE SCHEME, YOU SAID?
IF THAT'S SO,
THEN WHY IS THAT MAN HERE?!
WE ARE THE KING'S FAITHFUL RETAINERS
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT WE...
Step back. A filthy child with a humble birth like you...
WE HUMBLY REQUESTED FOR PRINCE ALEXID'S PRESENCE HERE.
AND WE HAVE OUR REASONS FOR THAT
THESE ARE CIRCUM-STANCES THAT REQUIRE PRIVATE CONSULTING WITH, AND APPROVAL FROM, THOSE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.


glare
THE ROYAL FAMILY?
HOW CAN YOU CALL A LOWLY MAN WITH UNKNOWN ORIGINS A PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILY?
PLEASE LET ME SAY THIS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.
I AM VERY HONORED ABOUT THEIR DECISION,
BUT I CANNOT POSSIBLY UNDERTAKE THIS POSITION.
QUEEN MOTHER,
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SOILING THE NAME OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
I FEEL SICK.
THEIR LOOKS ARE UNUSUALLY SUGGESTIVE.


I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE HERE
chatter
In the confusion and disorder that followed, the advisory council made a few resolutions
regarding the succession of the region of Glaren. The plans to declare war with the kingdom of Blaukrent commenced.
The advisory council didn't request my presence again.
After that,


UM, THIS IS... THAT NOBLE FROM GLAREN NAMED...
LORD ELIAS.
...YOUR HIGHNESS.
I'M HONORED THAT YOU REMEMBER ME.


We're playing in the snow!!!
THE PRINCESS IS VERY CUTE.
NO, NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT!
I APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE TROUBLE THE OTHER DAY.
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SO MUCH FUN
SPEAKING OF THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF CASTORIA, SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE KEPT IN A VERY SECLUDED PLACE.
We're having a snowball fight!


Hold on
WHY DO I HAVE TO HAVE A CHILD THAT BIG AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE?
I FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND HOW A PARENT MUST FEEL ABOUT HAVING SUCH A POOR EXCUSE FOR A CHILD...
We're making a snow doll!
Well, if I have to be honest,
there's no doubt that she's quite cute, but...
I AM SURE IT MUST BE VERY PAINFUL FOR YOU TO LEAVE THAT PRINCESS HERE.
AND LEAVE FOR THE FRONT.
MY DEPARTURE HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED.


PLEASE COME TO GLAREN
YOUR HIGH-NESS,
This isn't good.
DIS-TRUST.
IRRI-TA-TION.
DIS-CON-TENT.
IMPA-TIENCE.
WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR PRESENCE...
JUST A TOUCH OF UN-EASE.
What a strong look...
..PRINCE ALEXIS
AND I WILL RETURN TO A DARK MOOD.


THANK YOU
No, it definitely is so.
Let's hope so.
After all, the enemy country, Blaukrent, is no more than a mish-mash group of people.
It's very simple. You only have to fight and win.
THIS IS THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR THE STATE TO HAVE SUCH AN IMMATURE RECOGNITION OF THINGS?
MY BROTHER WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.


I KNOW WHERE THIS ANXIETY AND IRRITATION OF MINE COMES FROM.
IT'S SURELY BECAUSE MY BROTHER, WHO ALWAYS GAVE PROPER ORDERS, AND INDICATED CLEARLY WHO OUR TRUE ENEMIES WERE...
IS SICK, AND WON'T WAKE UP.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT AM I HERE FOR?
I CAN'T SEE THE PATH THAT I HAVE TO WALK ON.
BECAUSE THE LIGHT THAT'S SUPPOSED TO SHINE ON THAT PATH IS HIDDEN LIKE THE MOON.
AND THE HAND THAT WOULD HAVE GUIDED ME IN THE DARKNESS IS NO LONGER...
ALEC!
I KNEW YOU WERE IN HERE!
WELL, GOOD! ARE YOU STILL WORKING?
WHEN WILL YOU BE DONE?
...
JUMP
JUMP


Pout
Pout
I'M GETTING SLEEPY!
WHEN YOU'RE NOT THERE, THE BED SHEETS ARE COLD.
OH? YOUR NEWLYWED IS PRETTY INTENSE!
I WANT TO BE ALONE.
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT.
ALE...


What I've lost is the hand that had tugged my younger self along.
The hand of Samael, who I even thought of as my own father.
Just once...
If I could just return once to that day...
CREAK


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STANDING HERE SO ABSENT-MINDEDLY?
IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE FENCING ROOM?
JERRICK.
..OH, IT'S YOU.
.. WHY WON'T YOU GIVE ME AN ANSWER?


Those eyes...
I can't put up with those eyes, staring straight at me.
YOU COULD DO IT, COULDN'T YOU?
PRINCE.
TRY SPEAKING TO ME LIKE THAT AGAIN
I WILL GIVE SUITABLE PUNISHMENT TO THAT INSUBORDINATION.
WHY DID YOU ABANDON LORD SAMAEL?
WHY DID YOU ABANDON THAT MAN?
Please stop it—
Don't make that face—
DRIVE ME OUT, PUNISH ME
DO AS YOU LIKE.
..BUT WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED, TEACH ME JUST ONE THING.


...THAT IS SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
But...
If I'm HATED, IT'S STILL ALL RIGHT.
HOW GREAT WOULD IT BE IF I CONFESSED EVERYTHING AND SHARED MY PAIN WITH HIM?
DAMN IT!
It's better for secrets to remain as secrets, shrouded in darkness.
I will never talk about it.
BY ALL MEANS, I WILL NOT BE SATISFIED IF I DON'T KNOCK YOU AROUND.
PLEASE TAKE THIS.


Use swords for a break-down.
HOW I WANTED TO SEND YOU FLYING.
I'VE ALSO ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT
WE'RE OF THE SAME OPINION.




Jerrick slashes his sword with a sense of righteousness, and he doesn't approach with tricks or art.
CLANG
CLANG
He has no hesitation or restraint, so I mustn't ease up on him here.
This is an opponent that I should treat with earnestness.
This is my chance


whistle
bonk
WH-?!
He kicked me...
furious
GOD DAM-MIT!
YOU BAS-TARD!
pant
pant
Whack
Whack


THAT MAN... EVEN THOUGH HE THOUGHT SO MUCH OF YOU...
DAMN IT!
JERRICK.


I SHOULD JUST PRETEND TO SHOW A FACE LIKE I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING.
I SHOULD JUST PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR IT.
HE CAN RESENT ME. HE'LL BE DOING ME A FAVOR BY DOING SO.


I THOUGHT MUCH OF HIM AS WELL.
And yet...
YOUR HIGHNESS.


...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE SOMEONE'S CALLED ME BY THAT NAME.
WILLY-
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
TO RETURN THIS TO YOUR HAND.
THE TREASURED SWORD HALCIPON,
THE SWORD THAT BRINGS GLORY AND HONOR AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY TO ITS OWNER


...AND REGRET THAT I CAN'T TAKE BACK.
If only that sword didn't exist...
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
WHAT THAT SWORD BESTOWS ON ME IS HATRED AND ENMITY AND JEALOUSY..
I DON'T NEED IT.
I DON'T NEED THAT ANY-MORE...
JUST KIDDING.
HALCIPON HAD BEEN LEFT IN THE FENCING ROOM. IF UDOLIEL HAD GONE THERE SO AS TO TAKE HALCIPON TO ME...
THEN HE MUST HAVE REALIZED ABOUT JERRICK.
Ah!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? THOSE WOUNDS...
I'M ALL RIGHT.
MORE THAN THAT, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY CHECK UP ON JERRICK...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY.
I MUST CARRY OUT MY DUTY.


MUCH LESS THE FACT THAT HE RAISED HIS HAND AGAINST YOU.
IT'S A FELONY TO ACT AGAINST YOUR AUTHORITY.
..ABOUT THAT IDIOT-
I WILL FIND AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO PUNISH HIM
PLEASE WAIT.
If I take offense, then the army will expel him.
PLEASE WAIT, JUST A MOMENT.
Even in Samael's case, I was the main culprit.
If we're talking about crimes, I am probably more guilty...
His behavior was simply because his feelings were more genuine than anyone else's.
There's no reason for his crime to be charged that way.
It hurts.


It hurts.
It hurts.
What should I do
To be freed from this pain?
Ah...
Brother...
I had a feeling that
There's no way that stubborn guy would cry, is there?
Alec was crying, but...
Was I dreaming?
Shiver


LOOK, I KNEW IT, THE SHEETS ARE SO COLD...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT HERE, ALEC.
Hey, Brother, are you all right?
I WON'T LET YOU GO ANY-WHERE.
GRIP
BRO-THER...



Even while I'm doing this, the present state of affairs is changing moment by moment.

There's only one person who can overcome personal interests and concerns...

To rule the country...

They are trying to gain political power against the royal family and get stronger.

The nobles who were pressed down beneath Brother's command know that now his control has weakened.


I'm about to be crushed under the darkness of the treasured sword.
But, the way I am now, I can't hold up against the weight of a single sword that he gave me.
...Only this person
whom I swore on my sword to give my soul to.
Let me be able to become my brother's power.


I know that he loved me
Samael, who gripped my hand, and at times, held me up in his arms, protected me from everything.
I know the truth.
These are the words that I was made to hear many times when I was young.
These are the words that showed me the way.
And the path that I should live by.
Although at the end we disagreed with each other, he left behind all of the important things for me.
That sword, and those memories...
Remember.


To kneel before my brother and swear to him is not an act of subordination.
I did that because I thought...
...That I must save him.
I'm not a child anymore.
I must stop relying on him for support.
I've decided to carry the burden of this treasured sword on my shoulders.
To take this treasured sword in my hand...
For the sake of my brother..
WHO IS THAT?


WAIT... WHAT HAPPENED?!
SISTER
SO YOU DID COME.
OH, IT'S ALEC?
EH?
NOT EH! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
YOU TWO ARE DEFINITELY BROTHERS, YOU'RE SO SIMILAR!
ALL BOTH OF YOU EVER DO IS MAKE ME WORRY.
AH, THAT... I'M ALL RIGHT, SO...
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT... I'M SORRY
SHIT! THAT BASTARD JERRICK REALLY MUST HAVE SERIOUSLY PUT HIS WEIGHT INTO IT


WE NEED TO TREAT THOSE WOUNDS.
AH, NO, I'M FINE.
I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU LOOKING LIKE THAT!
ALWAYS ONLY EVER SAYING, "IT'S ALL RIGHT, IT'S ALL RIGHT-"
I SUPPOSE THAT'S GENTLEMEN FOR YOU.
SISTER...
...
LIKE A MONSTER!
...DO I REALLY LOOK THAT BAD?
A MONSTER, HUH?
PRESSURING SOMEONE AND USING YOUR AUTHORITY MIGHT ACTUALLY BE QUITE EFFECTIVE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
?


I, ALEXID, FACE THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.
I DEMAND A TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF THE ROYALTY.
✢END


Step
Step
Step
I HAVE NO TIME TO HESITATE.


IT'S BEEN POINTED OUT TO ME WHAT I SHOULD DO.
SFX BAM
In that case, I will follow through with it until it's accomplished.



The Bride of Adarshan

Chapter 9

A Joint project of Aerandria & Starry Heaven

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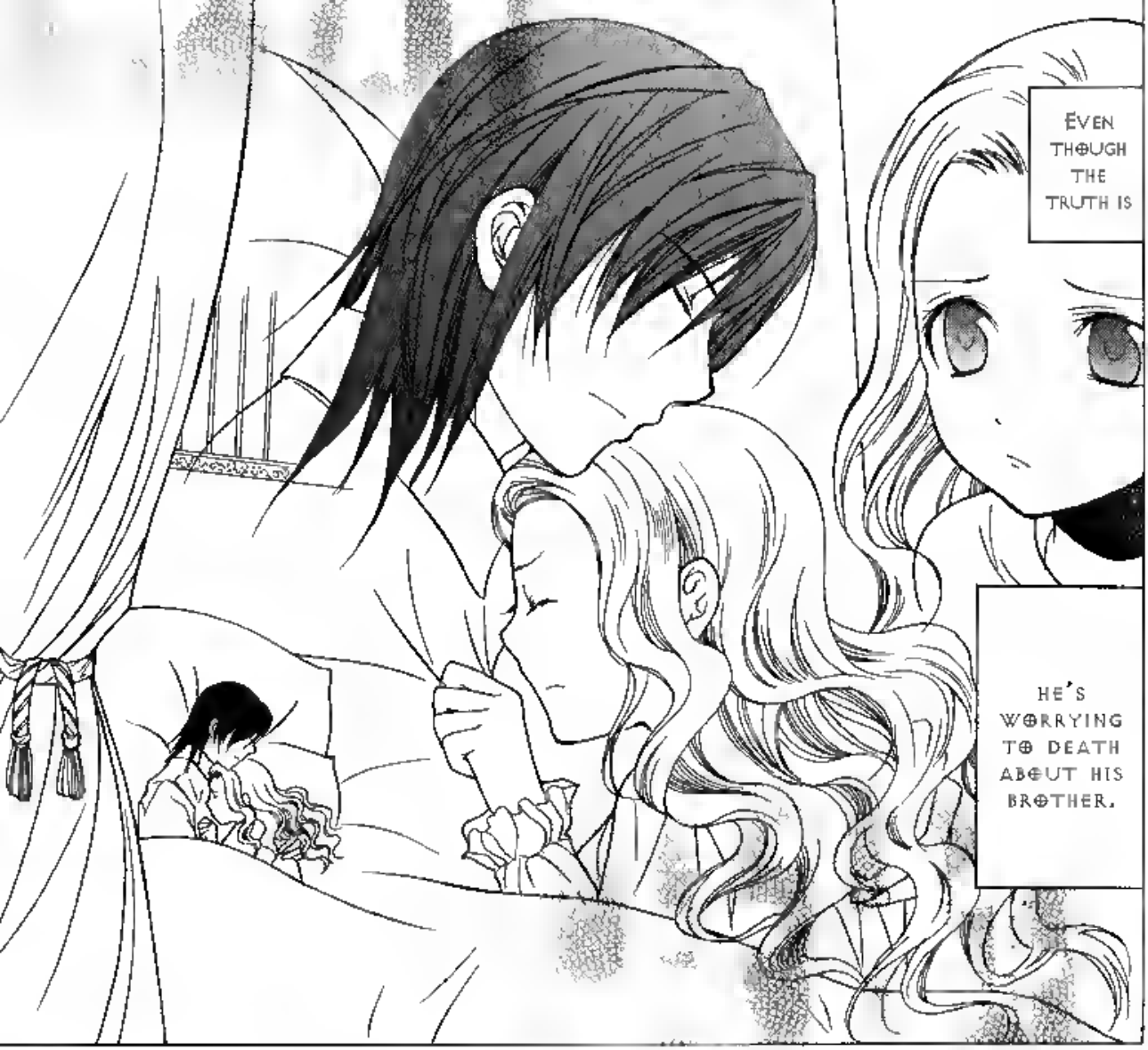
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Chapter 8
The Coming Spring


I'm just about done playing all the games you can play by yourself.
This is a bit boring.
Thanks to all the rumors in the castle, I know that the King Yuuze Ricks has fallen ill, but...
even if I ask about it...
"It's all right—"
...is all he says.
It's as though he's saying what he himself wants to hear.
He's always been like that.


EVEN THOUGH THE TRUTH IS
HE'S WORRYING TO DEATH ABOUT HIS BROTHER.


SCRAPE
Neither Alec nor Fred will tell me anything important!
I'm WORRIED ABOUT BROTHER, TOO...
ALEC HAS RECENTLY BEEN BUSY DAY AND NIGHT.


CLENCH
That's right. I'm not bored because there's nothing for me to do.
I just feel down
because those adults always look so troubled.
But I'm also worried about Sister, whose husband has fallen ill.
THAT'S WHY, FOR JUST A LITTLE...
...OH, LONG TIME NO SEE, IMPERIAL PRINCESS.
I'll show up for just a little...
I'm sure Sister will want something to get her mind off of things...

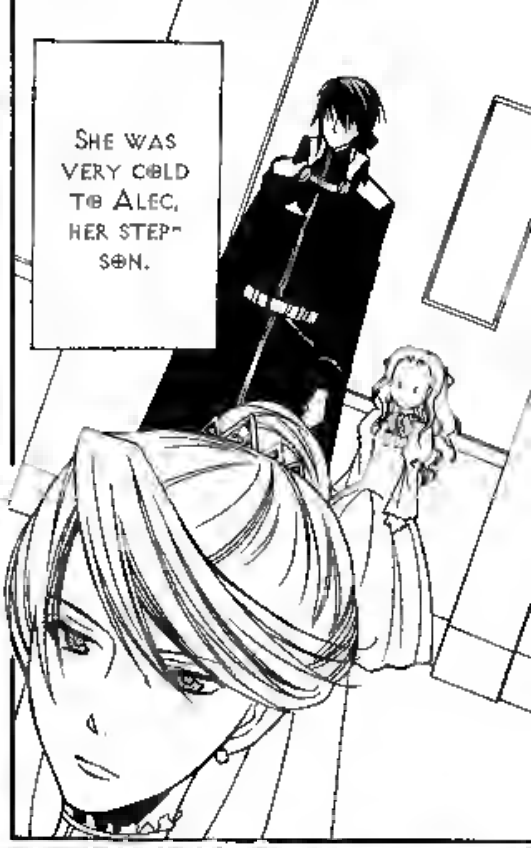


T/N Fawna refers to the Queen with a more formal designation for "Sister" than Euti does (More specifically, Fawna uses "Onee-sama" while Euti uses "Ane-ue.")


WELL, I COULD HEAR YOUR VOICES PRETTY CLEARLY!
I WAS NOT THE ONE WITH SUCH A LOUD VOICE.
TO RAISE YOUR VOICE IS SOMETHING ONLY A CHILD WOULD DO.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!
PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY.
IT'LL RUIN YOUR CUTE FACE.
HMPH! IT'S NOT GOING TO BE RUINED AS MUCH AS YOUR FACE IS
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I DIDN'T REALIZE
THAT YOU TWO GOT ALONG SO WELL!
WE AREN'T ...
Y-YES, OF COURSE WE DO, SISTER.


I'M HAPPY THAT YOU'RE GETTING ALONG WITH HER, FAWNA.
SHE'S ONLY JUST COME TO THIS COUNTRY, SO PLEASE TEACH HER EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.
JUSTINIA IS MY NEW LITTLE SISTER, AFTER ALL.
TODAY... THAT IS... IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE HERE, THAT IS...
RIGHT, DON'T YOU HAVE TO NURSE THE KING ..?
OF COURSE IT'S ALL RIGHT RIGHT NOW, MOTHER HAS RELIEVED ME AND IS TAKING CARE OF HIM.
Sister's Mother... I've met her once...


ADARSHAN IS DIFFERENT FROM THE EMPIRE. AND I AM AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.
BUT EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT...
THEY DON'T HAVE BEHAVIOR LIKE THAT IN MY COUNTRY!
EVEN IF I DON'T SHARE ANY BLOOD WITH THEM, THE OTHER QUEENS AND PRINCESSES WERE NICE TO ME
...ALEC, VERY NATURALLY, JUST ACCEPTED THAT BEHAVIOR.

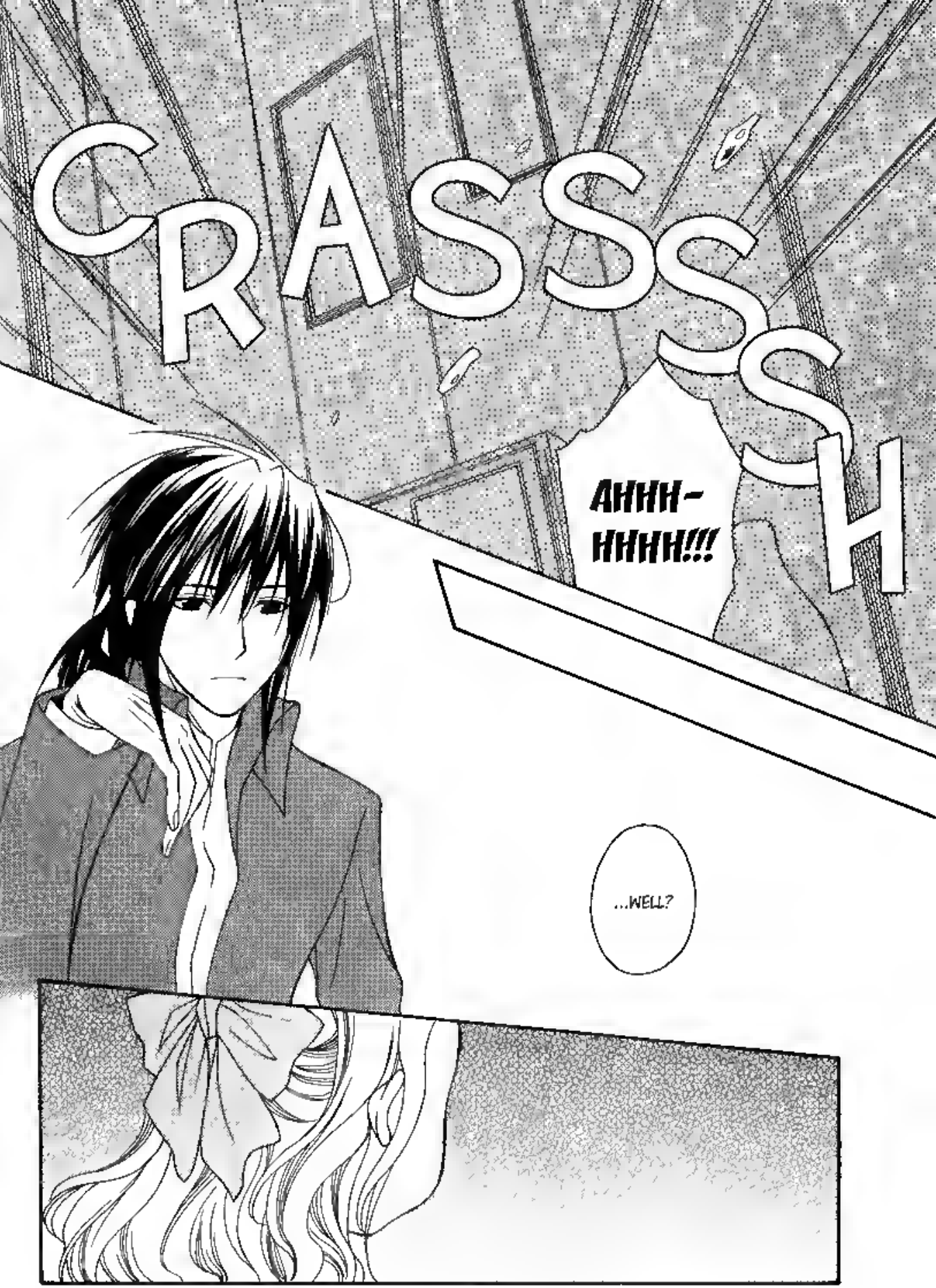

SHE WAS VERY COLD TO ALEC, HER STEPSON.


QUEEN AZERIA.
Hmph!
BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT IT!
...AND ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY.
CLOSE
I APOLOGIZE, BUT I MUST LEAVE FOR A BIT.
I WILL RETURN SOON, SO PLEASE STAY HERE...


I'M SURE SISTER ALREADY FIGURED YOU OUT.
THAT PRETEND BEHAVIOR IS USELESS.
WHO IS THE ONE PRETEND-ING?!
YOU'RE PRET-TY SNEAKY FOR ACTING ALL MEEK AND OBEDIENT IN FRONT OF SISTER.
"SISTERS," WHAT A JOKE!
ACTING LIKE THAT IN SPITE OF YOUR INTENTION TO DECEIVE BOTH SISTER AND HIS MAJESTY!
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD,
SISTER AND I
ARE STILL SISTERS!
STOP GETTING AHEAD OF YOURSELF AND LOITERING AROUND SISTER!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME THAT!


IT MAKES ME FEEL HORRID... THE EMPIRE... CASTORIA'S IMPERIAL PRINCESS...
THAT YOU CAME TO BE THAT MAN'S BRIDE...
IT'S RIDICULOUS.
THAT MAN?
...DO YOU MEAN ALEC?
ALL THAT HORRIBLE MAN EVER DOES IS GO TO THE BATTLEFIELDS
HE POSSESSES NOTHING LIKE A HUMAN HEART!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HE'D TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE KING'S ILLNESS ..
HUH?
EVERYONE IS SAYING IT! IT'S HARDLY APPROPRIATE FOR SOMEONE BORN OF A LOWLY WOMAN TO HAVE THE POSITION OF KING!
THE COLOR OF HIS HAIR, THE COLOR OF HIS EYES .. THEY'RE BOTH STRANGE. HE IS NOT ADARSHANA!


HOW CAN YOU CALL MY SISTER, "SISTER" AFTER MARRYING SOMEONE LIKE HIM?
SHUT UP!
"Enjoy each other's company!"
YOU'RE ANNOYING
YOU AREN'T THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF THE EMPIRE HERE, YOU KNOW.
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND.
YOUR HUSBAND BECOMING KING IS SOMETHING THAT I DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT.


CRASSSSH
AHHH-
HHHH!!!
...WELL?


WHY DID YOU FIGHT?
SHE WAS THE YOUNG DAUGHTER OF THE NOBLE GELTOBAAK FAMILY, YOU KNOW.
THIS BRAT...
IT WASN'T MY FAULT.
WHY DID YOU BRING UP THE SUBJECT TO ME? I'M BUSY HERE, YOU KNOW?
HUH?
I ONLY FEEL BAD THAT I MISSED.
I WANTED TO SMASH THAT HORRIBLE FACE OF HERS.
WHATEVER, JUST GO AND APOLOGIZE TO HER!
WHAT! WHY ARE YOU SO CONCEITED!
ANYWAY, DID YOU APOLO-GIZE?
PINCH

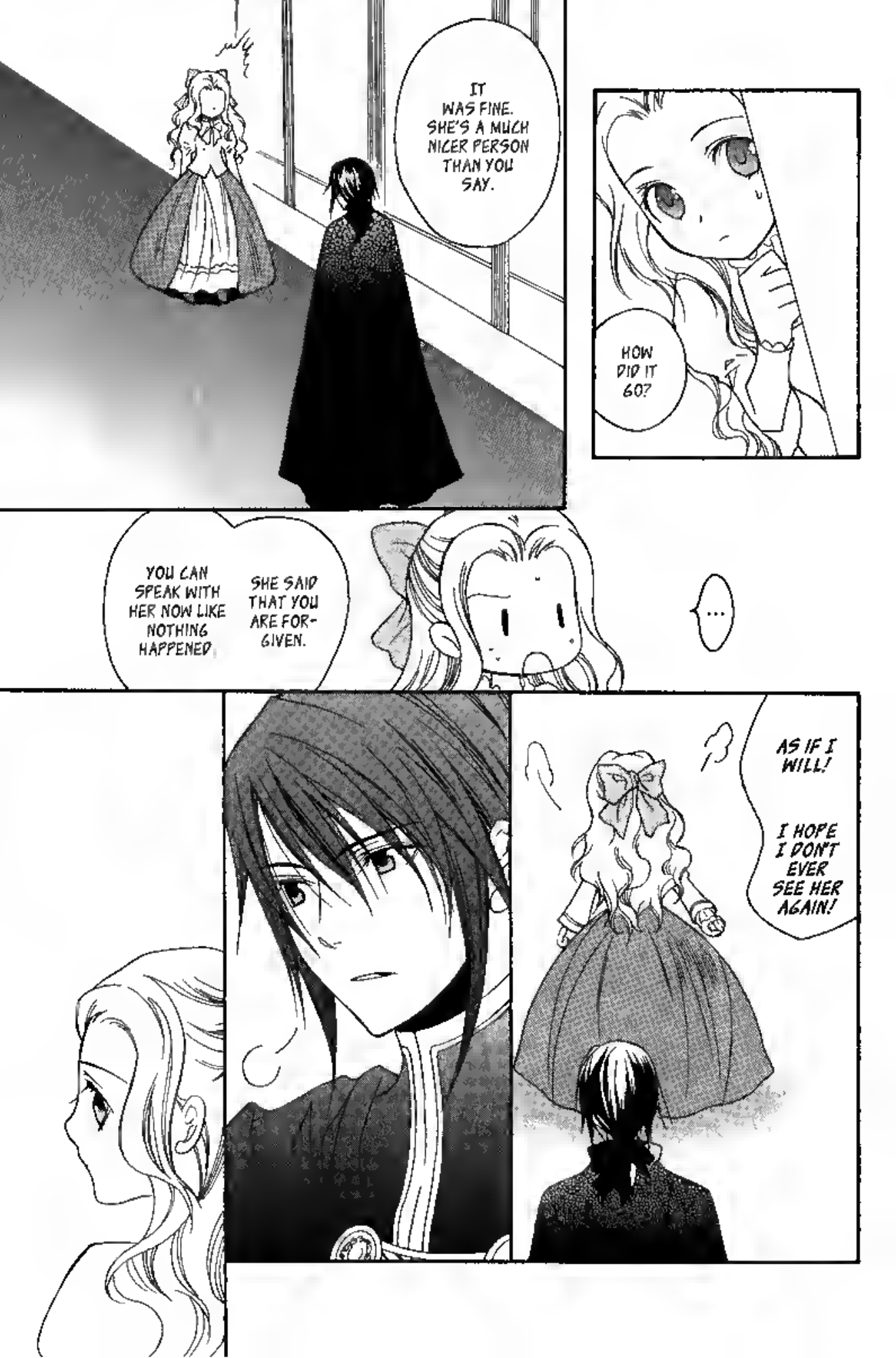

ME?
DIDN'T YOU JUST RECENTLY PICK A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE, TOO?
I'M NOT APOLOGIZING!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR PROBLEM, NOT MINE.
IS SHE TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH JERECK?
FINE, THEN I'LL GO APOLOGIZE TO HER.
NO!
NO NO NO! DON'T GO!
DON'T YOU DARE GO APOLOGIZE TO HER!
AFTER SHE SAID ALL THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS ABOUT YOU. .
ENOUGH ALREADY, DON'T...


Those horrible things...?
Ah!
I SEE. FINALLY, THE PUZZLE IS SOLVED.
...I'M SORRY.
I can pretty much guess what was said to her
Euti is a stubborn girl,
but when she makes a mistake, she's upright enough to honestly admit it.


I ONLY LEFT THE ROOM FOR A BIT.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY EYES OFF THEM
GOOD GRIEF. REALLY...
YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANYTHING!
THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE IS HER!
IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU TWO HAVE MET?
ALEC, THIS GIRL IS FAWNA.


N-NO!
I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE TROUBLE MY WIFE CAUSED YOU
WERE YOU INJURED?
SHE'S ACTUALLY MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD THAN I THOUGHT.
WELL, SHE PROBABLY FEELS NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING THE ACTUAL PERSON SHE WAS BADMOUTHING BEHIND THEIR BACK.
BOW


PLEASE, FORGIVE ME.
IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE ME, I WILL CONTINUE KNEELING BEFORE YOU.
I-
PLEASE, STOP THIS.
UM...
whisper whisper
I forgive you! I forgive you, so stand!
IT'S OVER


IT WAS FINE. SHE'S A MUCH NICER PERSON THAN YOU SAY.
HOW DID IT GO?
YOU CAN SPEAK WITH HER NOW LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED
SHE SAID THAT YOU ARE FORGIVEN.
...
AS IF I WILL!
I HOPE I DON'T EVER SEE HER AGAIN!


?
tug
tug
...I'M SORRY.


Recently,
we keep missing each other.
since I felt this warmth and this soft touch.
That it's been so very long


BLAUKRENT IS PRESENTING A PLAN FOR COMPROMISE?!
EVEN THOUGH WE ALREADY DETERMINED TO WAGE WAR?
YES. IN OTHER WORDS, THE BLAUKRENT SIDE WILL PAY THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED...
IF THE KING OF ADARSHAN WILL ALLOW THEM TO BE NOBLES OF THESE REMOTE REGIONS—
IF WE RENOUNCE RESPONSIBILITIES OVER THE INHERITANCE OF GLAREN... HUH
The conditions of the conflict's resolution aren't that bad.


IF THEY SAY THEY WANT TO SETTLE THIS WITH MONEY, WHY DON'T WE LET THEM DO SO?
IT WOULD BE TOO TROUBLE-SOME TO BRING OUT ARMIES.
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WORD.
DOES THAT MEAN THAT EVEN IN THAT COUN-TRY THERE ARE HUMANS WITH RATIONAL THINKING?
The most outrageous part of this is the amount of money that's being demanded.
LORD ELIAS.
EARL SHRAVER—
RESTRAIN YOURSELF! THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR YOU UNCOUTH YOUNGSTERS TO BE AT.
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THESE SEATS AREN'T FOR PEO-PLE LIKE YOU TO SIT AT.


Good grief...
YOU SAY YOU CAN SETTLE THIS SO EASILY,
BUT ISN'T REALITY MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN THAT?
I DON'T THINK THERE'S A PROBLEM
IF THE NOBLES ARE INVITED, WE WOULDN'T BE GIVING THEM MERELY SEATS, BUT THE RECOGNITION OF THE SPEECH AND PROPOSALS REGARDING GLAREN.
THE AMOUNT OF MONEY DEMANDED ISN'T SOMETHING ONE CAN PREPARE IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.
THOUGH IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
WE AND OTHER LORDS WOULD LIKELY COOPERATE, AND WITH PLEASURE.


THAT'S NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN.
INSOLENT YOUNGSTERS! T-TO VOICE SUCH FOOLISH SPECULATION!
BLAUKRENT AND WE, GLAREN, HAVE A DEEP RELATIONSHIP.
PEOPLE FROM ONE PLACE OFTEN GO TO VISIT THE OTHER PLACE, AND I SUSPECT THERE IS SOMEONE WHO'S INFORMING BLAUKRENT OF OUR INTERNAL STATE OF AFFAIRS
HOW FOOLISH!
HOW COULD THEY BE INFORMED ABOUT OUR STATE OF AFFAIRS?
Such an extreme response.
—?


Could they possibly be stalling for time?
Are they trying to negotiate with us after knowing that our King has fallen ill?
It would be all right if they proposed without knowing.
But what if they're assuming that the castle has fallen to chaos due to the King's illness?
OF COURSE, SOLVING THE PROBLEM WITHOUT WAGING A WAR IS THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION...
...NEVERTHELESS,
GLAREN IS A LAND OF DISASTERS!
IF WE WAGE WAR AGAIN, GLAREN'S CONDITION WILL RETURN TO RIOTING LIKE BEFORE!
EARL SHRAVER, YOU SAY TOO MUCH!
EVEN IF WE ACCEPT THE DEMAND, IT'S NOT GUARANTEED THAT WE WILL HAVE PEACE
SHUT UP, YOU FOOL!


LET ME JUST SAY THIS ONE THING CLEARLY TO THE MANY WISE PEOPLE PRESENT HERE TODAY.
clatter
SINCE THE PEOPLE OF GLAREN HAVE SWORN THEIR UNDYING LOYALTY TO OUR KING,
WE CANNOT PUT THEM IN DANGER WITHOUT A REASONABLE JUSTIFICATION LIKE THAT.
chatter
THE ROYAL FAMILY WILL NOT BETRAY THEIR LOYALTY!
THE ROYAL FAMILY YOU SAY?
CLENCH
CAN SOMEONE WHO'S NOT ALLOWED TO SUCCEED THE THRONE CALL HIMSELF A PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILY?
OR DO YOU THINK THE THRONE IS ALREADY IN YOUR HANDS?
EARL SHRAVER!
I WILL NOT APPROVE OF IT.
I WILL NOT APPROVE OF ANY SUCH THING AS AN ILLEGITIMATE PRINCE TAKING THE THRONE.


I hope you get what's coming to you!
I thought that it would come to be like this someday,
that after all your ingratitude, you would aim for the throne - you're nothing but a thief.
...IF THAT'S WHAT THE KING WISHES.
There's no way I'd approve of that shameless man!
I WILL NOT APPROVE OF IT!


BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID THAT I WOULD BE THROWN AWAY, THAT I WOULD LOSE THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WAS AFRAID THAT MY STEPMOTHER HATED ME.
DESPITE THE ABUSE, I WAS STILL OBEDIENT.
YOUR HIGHNESS?
I HAVE ALWAYS, ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID.


MY ANSWER IS DECIDED.
HOWEVER, I MUST DO WHAT THE KING HIMSELF WOULD DO.
EVEN WITHOUT HIS INSTRUCTIONS, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF STEPPING BACK DOWN.
I SUPPOSE ALL OF YOU ARE AWARE OF MY STANDING HERE
BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING ANYMORE.
FOR WHOSE SAKE AM I HERE?
TO BEGIN WITH, IF THE KING WERE NOT ILL, THEN THIS.....
NONSENSE!
EXCUSE MY INTERRUPTION.


...HAS RETURNED TO CONSCIOUSNESS!
BROTHER!
TO THOSE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, AND TO THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO THEIR JURISDICTION,
I WOULD LIKE TO HEREBY DECLARE MY RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS,
AND ANNOUNCE THE UNDOING OF THOSE AFOREMENTIONED DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
MY WISH IS TO HASTILY BEGIN THE DISSOLUTION OF THESE PARTIES,
AND I WISH TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FROM MY HEART TO THE EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE LORDS WHO HAVE GIVEN IT.
BROTHER...


WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE STILL IN CONVALES-
WHY ISN'T HE SLEEPING?
GET OUT.
GET LOST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
SEEING YOUR FACE IRRITATES ME.
WH...

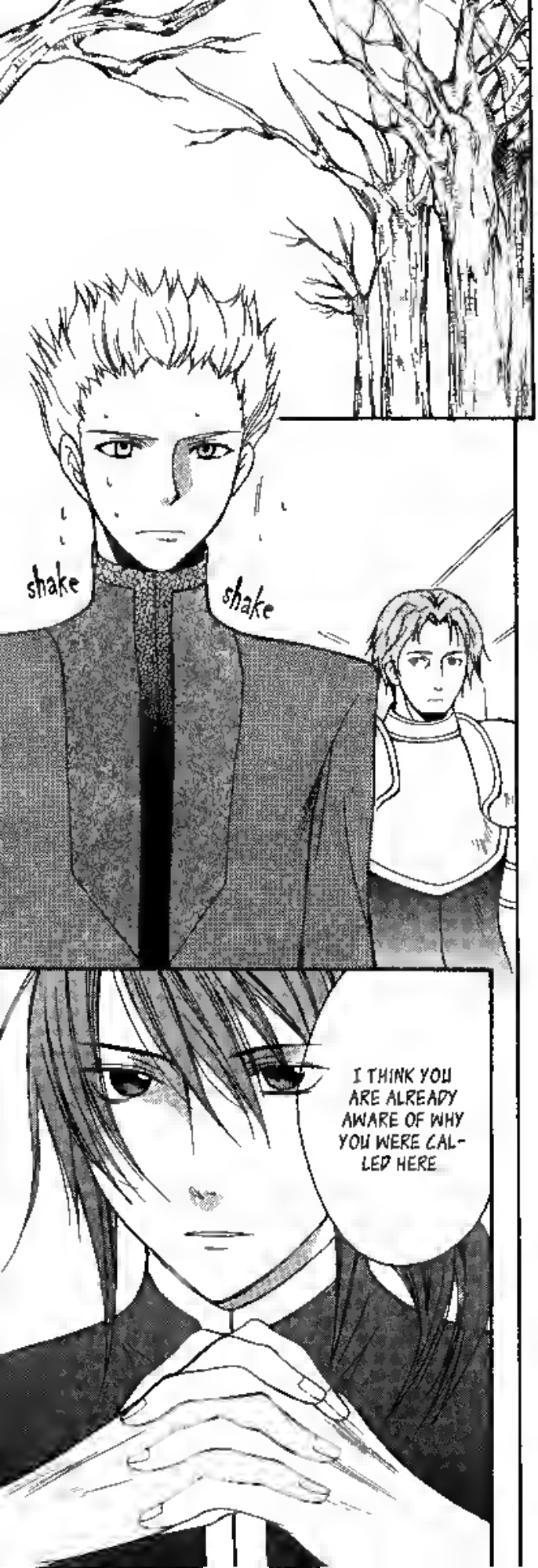

DID I ... MAKE BROTHER ANGRY?
AH...
...I APOLOGIZE
THAT'S RIGHT.
AS SOON AS BROTHER FELL TO HIS SICKBED, I JUST DID WHATEVER I WANTED WITHOUT CONSULTING ANYONE.
BUT THE REASON I CLAIMED MY INHERITANCE OF THE THRONE WASN'T BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE KING.
I SIMPLY WANTED TO PROTECT THE THINGS THAT BROTHER HAS WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD, BUT...
I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DISPLEASURE WITH MY ACTIONS
...I AWAIT MY PUNISHMENT.
If that is what the king wishes.


I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT CRIME I SHOULD CHARGE YOU WITH!
IF I COULD PUNISH YOU, I WOULD HAVE ALREADY DONE IT.
... HUH?
PUNISH-MENT?
CRUNCH
YOU MEAN THE INCIDENT WHERE YOU ANNOUNCED YOURSELF AS THE INHERITOR OF THE THRONE? THAT'S OBVIOUS
IT ONLY FOLLOWS FROM THE HIERARCHY THAT YOU WOULD HAVE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DO IT
OF COURSE I DON'T.
BROTHER ... DO YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT NOW?
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW.
HUH? THEN HE'S JUST TAK-ING IT OUT ON ME?


DIDN'T I SAY THAT I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW?
YOU DISGUST ME.
...IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, HOW ABOUT RETURNING TO YOUR ROOM?
SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT.
HE'S TOTALLY TAKING IT OUT ON ME.
RIGHT. FOR BROTHER, TO SHOW WEAKNESS IS SOMETHING THAT HE CAN'T HANDLE.
THOUGH AN ILLNESS IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE HELPED,
THOUGH LIKE FATE, THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN DO ABOUT IT, BUT STILL...


My stupid brother.
That idiot.
Who told you to work on these documents?
You really are an idiot. Is this a situation where you should worry about other people?
After this incident, it's so easy for him to turn into a prince without any supporters behind him.
They realized he was the perfect person to make the dummy king.


I DON'T CARE ABOUT THOSE DOCUMENTS.
THAT LITTLE BROTHER OF MINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
I ALWAYS TRY TO KEEP A DISTANCE FROM HIM BECAUSE I DON'T WANT HIM TO CATCH MY ILLNESS.
BUT INSTEAD, HE ALWAYS STUCK CLOSE BY, LOOKING WORRIED.
With him being like that, he can't completely avoid the shadows that keep following him.
That's why he's such an idiot.
Why does he have to destroy all the groundwork that I've spent so much time and efforts on laying down all this time?
And the shadows will continue to grow.
CRUNCH
And now that he's made it clear to everyone that he can be of use to them, that idiot can't run away from the people who're trying to take advantage of him.


shake
shake
I THINK YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF WHY YOU WERE CALLED HERE


That which will save the Black Demon Alexid is not this castle...


JERECK GEAR,
I CHARGE YOU WITH NEGLIGENCE, INSUBORDINATION, AND FOR BEING DEAD DRUNK
A SOLDIER WHO HAS STRUCK A SUPERIOR OFFICER, AT BEST, IS PUNISHED WITH MILITARY DISCHARGE.
AT WORST, HE IS CHARGED WITH A CAPITAL CRIME. BUT...
YES.
YOU'VE DONE A FOOLISH THING.
Huh?
DEAD DRUNK...?
LOOKS LIKE YOU DIDN'T SUFFER THAT MUCH WHILE STAYING IN AN ISOLATED CELL UNTIL YESTERDAY.
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN? WHAT GOOD MEMORY YOU HAVE.
UNDERSTOOD!
YOUR SENTENCE IS FINALLY SERVED. I WILL NOW LIFT THE RESTRICTIONS PUT ON YOU.
AND I HOPE THAT YOU WON'T REPEAT YOUR ERROR IN THE FUTURE


WAS IT REALLY BECAUSE HE WAS DRUNK?
UDOLIEL, YOU SHOULD TRY DRINKING SOMETIME, TOO.
HE GETS QUITE VIOLENT WHEN HE'S DRUNK.
I SEE. YOU'VE NEVER HAD A DRINK WITH HIM BEFORE.
THE BRUISES LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE INVOLVED IN A FISTFIGHT WITH HIM.
UDOLIEL ELGART, I HEREBY NOMINATE YOU AS A COMMANDER OF OUR ARMY.
A NOTICE OF PERSONNEL CHANGE
I DO NOT WISH TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THAT, I THINK.
AH, RIGHT. I HAVE A FEW OTHER TASKS TO COMPLETE.


I don't care even if he hates me or holds a grudge against me.
This time, definitely, I will protect this country, the King, and everything—
I was once taken under the wing of Samael, a powerful soldier,
though I hadn't realized his true nature.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO BECOME MY SUBORDINATE.
However... Samael is not here anymore.


I ACCEPT THIS OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT WITH THANKS, PRINCE ALEXIO
WHEW—
WHAT ARE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT?
NOT REALLY.
HMM. YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING OUT OF CHARACTER.
DEAD DRUNK, HUH? DEAD DRUNK YOU HAD TO GO WITH THAT EXPLANATION
ARE YOUR DRINKING HABITS ALSO NOT HORRID, MY PRINCE?
...


Even when I was young, Fred was very fussy whenever I was injured.
GRIND
WHEN YOU ARE HARMED, SO IS MY NAME!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE NIGHT WHEN I HAD A FISTFIGHT WITH JERECK IN THE FENCING AREA?
ARE YOU STILL ANGRY ABOUT THAT?
"Don't get into fights!"
"The only ones that you should fight are the ones where you absolutely can't end up injured!"
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT I MADE A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE.
"Well, but the only exception is the battlefield."
DIDN'T I SAY SORRY ALREADY?


YOU DON'T LOOK APOLOGETIC AT ALL. YOUR HIGHNESS IS ALWAYS JUST ALL TALK.
STOP ALREADY WITH THE WEIRD POLITE SPEECH.
DAMN. DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT.
IF THAT'S THE WAY HE'S GOING TO ACT, THEN I'LL JUST IGNORE HIM.
CLICK
ALEC! CAN I COME IN...?
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU. I'LL GO BACK.


WAH!
WELL, WAIT.
WHAT WERE YOU PLAYING? LET'S DO SOMETHING TOGETHER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF YOU STAY HERE. LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
ARE YOU PLANNING SOMETHING?
WELL, OKAY, TODAY LET'S READ A BOOK.
PERFECT. THIS WILL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO ESCAPE FROM THIS MOOD FOR A LITTLE.
FRED WILL DO US A FAVOR AND MAKE US SOME TEA.
ISN'T THAT BOOK A LITTLE DIFFICULT?
!?


ARE YOU COMPETING WITH THAT YOUNG LADY AGAIN?
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME! IF FAWNA CAN READ IT, THEN I CAN, TOO!
UM, GOOD IDEA!
READ IT OUT LOUD?
IF THERE ARE PLACES YOU CAN'T READ, THEN I'LL TEACH YOU HOW.
READ IT FROM THE BEGINNING
It's warm...
He thought he was not a person suitable for the light
The savage tribes that came to live in a world of shadows. Kesterelg knew light for the first time since he was born...


What has been lost to me has returned...
With a different appear-ance...
With a different shape...


...GOOD GRIEF, HE TOLD ME TO READ IT, BUT NOW HE'S SOUND ASLEEP.
And in this warmth...
WHAT A WIMP. NO MATTER HOW BORING YOUR READING WAS, HE SHOULDN'T HAVE—
IT WASN'T BORING!
NO, THE PROBLEM ISN'T THE READING.
IT'S JUST THAT THIS GUY LACKS THE QUALITY THAT'S NEEDED TO ENJOY BOOKS.
ANYWAY, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
SURE!


THE COLD WINTER IS OVER, ALEC.
A NEW CURTAIN IS OPENING.
END


The bride
of
Adarshan

The Bride of Adarshan

Chapter 3 & Omake

A Joint project of Aerandria & Starryheaven

scanner Lacaille

Translator Aura

PR Bea and Asahina

Cleaner Eye

Typesetter kat

QC Cheebs & star_Light

http://aerandria.net
http://z3.invisionfree.com/Starry_Heaven/index.php

The Bride of Adarshan

Chapter 5

A Joint project of Aerandria & Starry Heaven

Scanner: Lacaille
Translator: Aura
Proofreader: Asahina & NelliEL
Editor: Eye & AngelIvory
QCer: Cheebs & star_Light

HTTP://AERANDRIA.NET
HTTP://SHSCANS.WORDPRESS.COM




SHORT STORY
A Small Wish


WHAM
It's so cold!
TAP
TAP
TAP
WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM
SHE'S HERE
eyes Open
CAN YOU PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR FASTER?
I'M FREEZING TO DEATH!
...


ALEC AND I ARE PART OF A SO-CALLED POLITICAL MARRIAGE.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A FEW DAYS SINCE I'VE MARRIED INTO THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM, ADARSHAN.
IT'S REALLY COLD TONIGHT AND IF YOU DON'T WARM UP, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
...
BUT ALEC IS STILL REALLY SHY AND HE HARDLY EVER APPROACHES ME.
pat
pat
pat
...
"Come here" signal
ALEC, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
I AM.
...
THEY SAY THAT THE TIME YOU SPEND AS A NEWLYWED IS REALLY IMPORTANT BUT...
THAT REMINDS ME, SISTER IS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE HER ONCE IN A WHILE?
ANYWAY, WEREN'T SISTER'S TEA COOKIES DELICIOUS AGAIN TODAY?
THEY TASTE SO GOOD WITH THE TEA FRED MAKES.
...
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah
blah


BONK
There!
phew
ARE YOU FINALLY ASLEEP?
YOU... YOU HARD-HEADED ...!!!
I'LL CHASE YOU OUT OF MY ROOM!
This is why I hate kids!
YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE A SMALL JOKE FROM YOUR WIFE? HOW BORING.
WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, ALEC, WHAT KIND OF GAMES DID YOU PLAY?

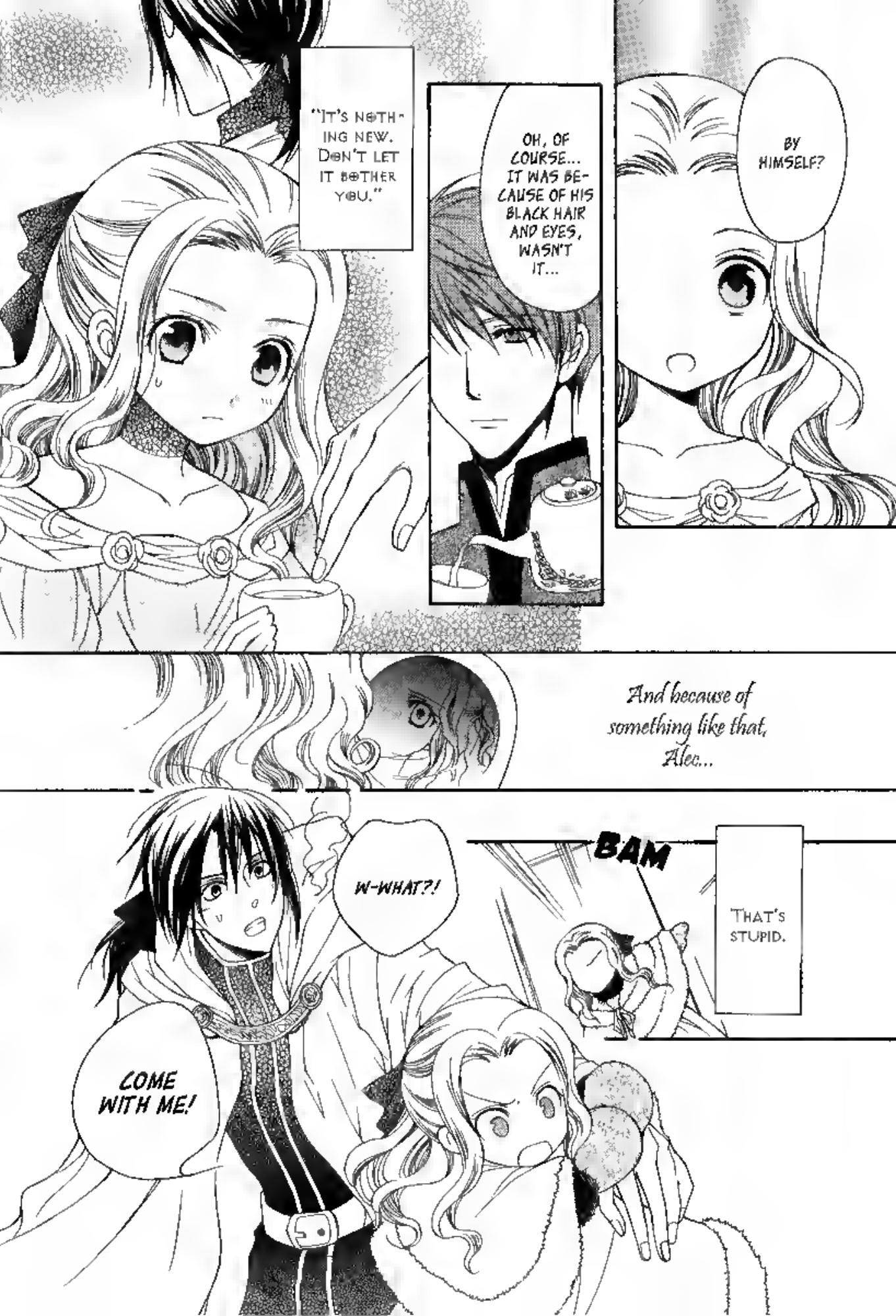

I JUST PLAYED NORMAL GAMES.
...
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I'M A BAD PERSON.
I'M JUST INTERESTED ON A PERSONAL LEVEL!
ARE YOU PLANNING SOMETHING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY NORMAL?!
ARE YOU SATISFIED? I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CURT!
DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT?
She's learned some weird saying again...


CLANG!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.
Ah.
Sa-
mael...


ALEC!
run
run
run
run
run
IS YOUR SWORD PRACTICE FINISHED?
DID YOU GO TO MY SISTER'S CHAMBER AGAIN?
HMM.
YOUR TEACHER JUST PASSED AWAY, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOU CARE AT ALL.


You're Nana's enemy!
I'm no better than them, but still .
NONE OF YOU KNOW ANY-THING!!!
IT'S NO-THING NEW DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU
TYPICAL OF THE BLACK DEMON, TO BE SO COLD-HEARTED
I FELT THE SAME WAY.
!
There's no such thing as a person who isn't wounded by malice
NOTHING NEW?
THEY CALL HIM THE BLACK DEMON, BUT HE'S A HUMAN.


WHEN ALEC WAS YOUNG...?
UH-HUH.
I THOUGHT SO.
WELL... HE LIKED TO CAUSE MISCHIEF
BUT REALLY, LIKE NOW, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A VERY OBEDIENT CHILD.
THANK YOU, FRED.
He was always smiling!
WHAT!
THOUGH HE WAS ALWAYS PLAYING BY HIMSELF.


"It's nothing new. Don't let it bother you."
Oh, of course... It was because of his black hair and eyes, wasn't it...
By himself?
And because of something like that, Alec...
W-what?!
Come with me!
BAM
That's stupid.


What the hell is this princess thinking this time
UNDER THIS WINTER SKY!
TODAY, ALEC, WE ARE GOING TO PLAY TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT ..
ONCE IN A WHILE IT'S GOOD TO ACT LIKE A CHILD!
falls apart
Ah!
LISTEN...
There we go!
...IT'S SO COLD!
YOU'LL WARM UP IF YOU MOVE AROUND!
IRRITATED
IT'S NOT GOING SO WELL...
AH!


huff
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS, AREN'T YOU?
...I MADE THESE A LOT WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
YOU IDIOT. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A SNOWMAN, YOU HAVE TO ROLL THE SNOW LIKE THIS.
OOH!
THEN I'LL LEAVE THE MAIN PART TO YOU!
I'LL CONCENTRATE ON THE DECORATIONS!
I knew it was going to be like this.
OH, WHAT'S THAT?


THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS?
HIS HIGHNESS.. THE BLACK DEMON AND...
WHAT IS IT?
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOUR HIGHNESS,
THERE'S SOMETHING INTERESTING TO BE SEEN OUTSIDE!
OH?
IT'S COMPLETE!


...IS IT?
phew
THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS WONDERFUL! THIS IS ART!
...
...YOU KNOW YOU WERE ENJOYING YOURSELF,
ISN'T IT BETTER TO CREATE CONCRETE MEMORIES LIKE THIS?
WHAT?
MORE THAN THE STUPID AND WORTHLESS RUMORS...


MEMORIES WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR.
NEVER EVER.
YOU'RE NOT CUTE AT ALL!
IT'LL MELT EVENTUALLY, THOUGH.


...I GUESS SO.
Like the snow that's falling and piling up...
A little bit at a time...
A little bit at a time...



Short Story END

Sorry, Amekawa-sensei.

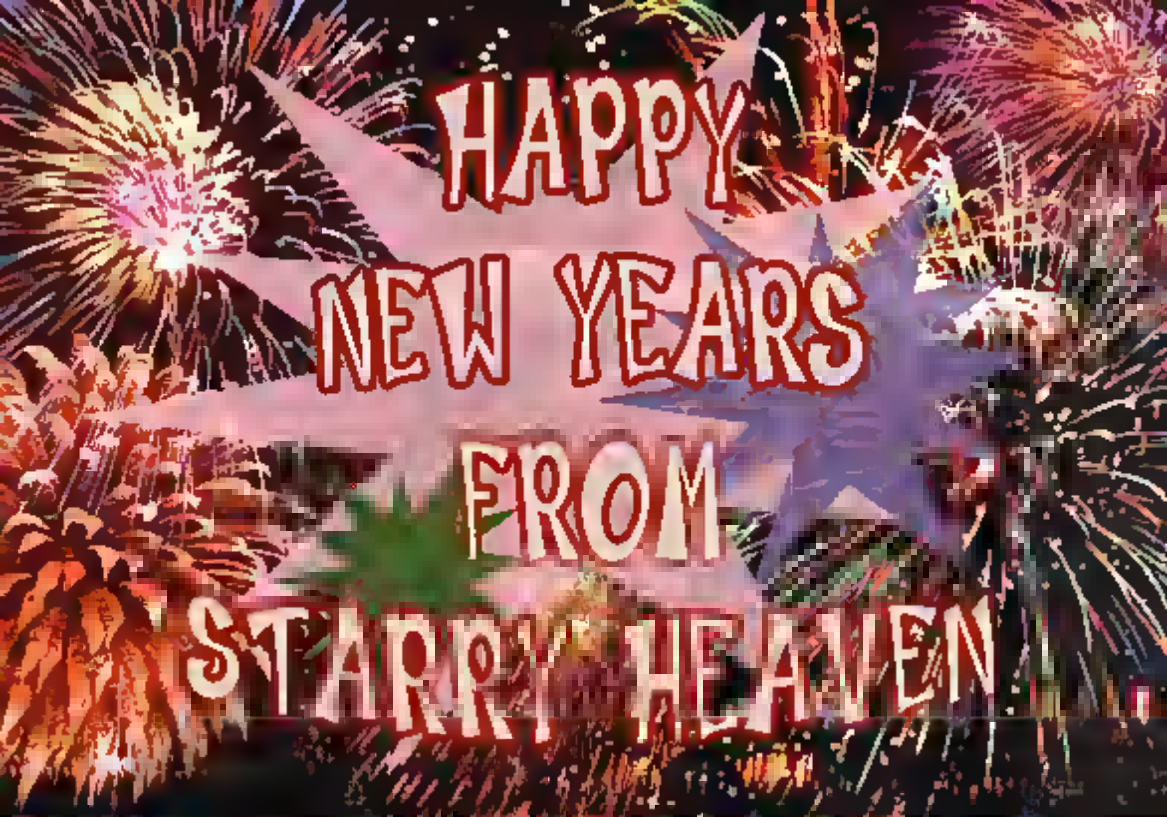
This has no relation to the original story.
(Made by Kazaco Nori)

Omake manga




RAWR
Why won't you release the next chapter?!
.....
W...
Can I help you?
What can I do to help?
I
Fan Girl
b-b-but I don't know how to edit or translate ...
It's not like YOU helped out any.
We don't have enough translators or editors.
Stop yelling already
!!!
...
Find us some translators and editors and you'll have your next chapter.
Visit our website for details.
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